

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences, &c.

No. 1592.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1847.

PRICE 4d.
Stamped Edition, 5d.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

ANCIENT ART.

Ancient Art and its Remains; or, a Manual of the Archaeology of Art. By C. O. Müller. Translated from the German by John Leitch. Pp. 526. A. Fullerton.

Materials for a History of Oil-Painting. By C. Lock Eastlake, R.A., &c. Pp. 561. Longmans.

In these two octavo volumes we have a treasure, nay almost a library, of the Fine Arts. Research, learning, and judgment, mark them both in an eminent degree; and whilst in the one we are enabled to trace their every branch and division from the very dawn through national and historical epochs, in the other we have a clear account of the rise and progress of that important class which in modern times occupies so large a share of the efforts of pictorial genius.

With Müller, in this his new and greatly augmented and improved work, we begin with admirable theoretical views and definitions of art, embracing their laws and ends. In Greece the condition of architecture, tectonics, plastic or formative art, and painting, lay our foundations; and we travel on through Etruria, Rome, and Europe in the middle ages, also looking contemporaneously to every other age and country throughout the world for analogies and proofs, including Egypt, Syria, Asia, Africa, &c., and every species of material wrought upon by the ingenuity of man.

To review such a publication as it ought to be would require half-a-dozen entire Nos. of the *Literary Gazette*, and then it would be insufficient to satisfy the desire for the information it contains, which must be felt by all artists and lovers of the arts. We must, therefore, rest content with the expression of our unrestricted eulogy upon the original, and not less upon the ability of the translation; and half-a-dozen points, merely selected as applicable to some topic of the present day which occupies popular attention. We must first define that "the main object of this Manual is to reduce to scientific order the materials contained in archaeological literature, and which have been sufficiently illustrated by special undertakings, strictly confining itself to the arts of design among the ancients."

It is added, and we rejoice to hear it announced, that this volume "will probably be followed by Müller and Oesterley's 'Monuments of Ancient Art,' when the original work, which is now in course of publication at Göttingen, will have been completed. It is intended as a companion to this Manual, and contains numerous plates illustrating the different periods of art, according to the system here pursued."

Of the Manual now before us it is truly said: "The great additions to our knowledge of ancient art during the last few years have not been patched on, in notices hastily raked together, but have, with continued attention, been interwoven with the whole. The numerous criticisms to which the work has been subjected on the part of various learned archaeologists have also been carefully turned to account. But, altogether, I may say that the labour attending this second edition has been scarcely less than that which was at first expended on the entire work."

But we now come to our proposed exemplar. The colouring of sculpture has just been brought into discussion by the appearance of a statue of our gracious Queen in the Royal Academy exhibition. On this subject Müller observes, that Sculpture and

Painting "are distinguished from one another in this, that the one, sculpture or the plastic art, places bodily before us the organic forms themselves (only that the difference of material often makes changes of form necessary in order to attain a similar impression), and that the other, design or the graphic art, merely produces, by means of light and shade, the appearance of bodies on a surface, inasmuch as the eye only perceives corporeal forms by means of light and shade."

"Colour, so far as regards external possibility, can indeed be combined with both arts, but in sculpture it operates with so much the less advantage the more it tries to approach nature; because, in this endeavour to represent the body completely, the want of life only strikes us the more disagreeably; on the other hand, it enters quite naturally into combination with design, which in itself represents more imperfectly, and does not represent bodies, but merely the effects of light upon them, to which colour itself belongs, and elevates design to the art of painting. Colour, in its nature, effects, and laws, has a great resemblance to sound. Hence the repulsiveness of wax figures; the illusion aimed at is precisely what here revolts. The painted wooden images of elder Greek art did not try to attain this faithful imitation of local colours. Colours also probably only differ quantitatively (according to Euler, by the number of vibrations in the ethereal fluid). They form a kind of octave, produce concord and discord, and give rise to sensations similar to those awakened by tones. Comp. Goethe's *Farbenlehre*, especially the 6th section 'Sinnlich-sittliche Wirkung der Farben.' The relation of sculpture and painting, as regards their capabilities and destination, is already hereby defined in its main features. The plastic art represents the organic form in highest perfection, and justly holds by its apex, the form of man. It must always represent completely and roundly, and leave nothing undefined; a certain restrictedness in its subjects, but, on the other hand, great clearness belongs to its character. Painting, which immediately represents light (in whose wonders it rightly shews its greatness), and in exchange is satisfied with the appearance thereby produced in the corporeal form, is capable of drawing much more into its sphere, and making all nature a representation of ideas; it is more suggestive, but does not designate so distinctly. The plastic art is in its nature more directed to the quiescent, the fixed; painting more to the transient; the latter can also, in that it combines far and near, admit of more movement than the former. Sculpture is, therefore, better adapted for the representation of character (*Äöor*), painting for expression (*πάθος*). Sculpture is always bound to a strict regularity, to a simple law of beauty; painting may venture on a greater apparent disturbance in detail, because it has richer means of again neutralising it in the whole. The pictorial is by moderns often opposed to the beautiful, the plastic never. The bas-relief (basso-, mezzo-, alto-relievo), whose laws are difficult to determine, hovers between both arts. Antiquity treated it rather in a plastic manner; and modern times, in which painting predominates, often pictorially. 'Tölkens ueber das Bas-relief.' Berlin, 1815. Sculpture (the art of cutting stones and dies) is, in general, nothing else than the art of producing mediately a relief in miniature."

The comprehensiveness and just ideas of the author may be surmised from this single extract; but we add a historical specimen:

"The modern treatment of ancient art since the

love for classic antiquity was revived, may be distinguished into three periods. The artistic, from about 1450 to 1600. Ancient works of art were taken up with joy and love, and collected with zeal. A noble emulation was kindled therein. There was little interest felt in them as historical monuments; enjoyment was the object. Hence the restorations of works of art. Works of art were at no time during the middle ages entirely disregarded; Nicola Pisano (died 1273) studied ancient sarcophagi (Cicognara, *Storia della Scult.* i. p. 355); nothing was done, however, towards guarding and preserving. The history of the destruction of ancient Rome does not even close with Sixtus IV. (died 1484, comp. Niebuhr's *Kl. Schriften* 433); however, they went to work in a more and more sparing spirit. Gibbon's 71st cap. 'Prospect of the Ruins of Rome in the fifteenth century.' Collections began as early as Cola Rienzi, that aper of antiquity (1347), with Petrarca (died 1374; coins); more considerable ones with Lorenzo di Medici (1472-92, statues, busts, but especially gems; see Heeren *Gesch. der Classischen Literatur* ii. 68); even earlier at Rome, as Eliano Spinola's under Paul II. Poggius (d. 1459) only knew about five statues in Rome, according to his work, *De fortuna varietate urbis Romæ*, edited by Dom Georgi, 1723. Zeal of the popes, Julius II. and Leo X. Raphael's magnificent plan for laying open ancient Rome. (Raphael's Letter to Leo X. in Bunsen's *Beschreibung der Stadt Rom*. i. 266. Leo's commission to Raphael, P. Bembo, Epistole, n. 21). Michael Angelo's, Benvenuto Cellini's enthusiasm for antiques. By far the greatest number of antiques, especially statues, were found between 1450 and 1550; numerous palaces were filled with them (comp. Fiorillo's *History of Painting*, i. 125 sqq., ii. 52 sqq.). Ostentation took the place of genuine love for art. Restoration was practised in a mechanical manner. The antiquarian, from about 1600 to 1750. The antiquary, who was at first principally employed as nomenclator of the statues to be erected, gradually attained more importance; however, those who were most distinguished for their knowledge of antiquity did not give themselves much concern about art. The endeavours to explain ancient works of art, although not without merit, were generally too much applied to what was external and trifling; and as they did not proceed from an accurate knowledge of Grecian life, were busied in false directions. That period also attended to the making collections known, at first negligently, but gradually with more care and skill. Rome was the central point of these studies; hence the early interest in the topography of Rome (from Fl. Biondo, 1449, downwards: comp. §. 258, 3); but hence also the mania for always interpreting ancient works of art from Roman history."

Again:

"The scientific, 1750—. This age enjoyed the advantage of the greatest external aids, to which belonged the excavation of the buried cities skirting Vesuvius, a more accurate knowledge of the architectural monuments and localities of Greece, and the discovery and acquisition of most important sculptures from Grecian temples; moreover, a more widely extended knowledge of Egypt and the East, and, latest of all, the unexpectedly great discovery of Etruscan tombs. On the other hand, we are indebted to this period for the design of a history of ancient art which emanated from the great mind of Winckelmann, as well as numerous attempts to investigate more deeply the art of the Greeks both philosophically and historically; and also a more

circumspect explanation of art, and built on more accurate bases."

We will not, however, multiply inadequate quotations, where we may so well say, *ex uno disce omnes*.

With regard to Mr. Eastlake's volume we shall offer no quotation at all. From the invention of oil-painting to this day, it carefully examines and states every ascertainable particular, and fairly settles questions of priority and merit. The fourteenth century, with its fresco and wax painting, the first attempts in oils, and the many processes adopted in their manipulation and application, the substances used for them and for varnishes, and, in short, the entire progress of the art (from chalk to cheese!), illustrated by some curious references to *xxx*, and matters little known, are most lucidly stated; and, in our opinion, do not leave a want in the subject to be sought and filled by living or future artists. To them we need scarcely recommend it as a *vade mecum*.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Travels in Central America, &c. By R. Glasgow Dunlop, Esq. Pp. 358. Longmans.

We have just indulged our readers with the view of singular pictures from the Northern Pacific Islands; and as we know no class of reading more instructive or amusing than such graphic delineations of our fellow-creatures in different regions of the earth, we now, though more shortly, as indeed there is less of novelty to attract us, proceed to pay a similar attention to Mr. Dunlop's sketches, made during a three years' residence in Central America. The artist himself is beyond our remarks, for he died at Guatemala on last new year's day, in his 32d year, whilst the printing of his work was advancing in London. The news of his death and the completion of the final sheet were nearly contemporaneous. Mr. Dunlop was the grandson of Mrs. Dunlop, the first friendly patroness of Burns, and born in Ayrshire in 1815. He was educated, after a Scottish initiation, at the London University, where his progress was highly satisfactory; embarked in mercantile pursuits, we fear not so successfully; and eventually repaired to Guatemala to amend his fortunes. "He is," says the preface, "the sixth of seven brothers who rest in a foreign soil." Commerce, like war, has its victims. But we have now to pursue the thread of his living course; and string upon it the notices which appear to us to be most deserving of publicity.

His entrance upon the new world is characteristic of the rest. At the Bay of Union, he says:

"On landing, I presented my passport to the port captain, Sen. Nicholas Espinosa, an ugly little dirty mestizo, but a man of most polished manners and address, well known, as I afterwards found, for his want of principle, and distinguished for crime even in a country full of thieves and assassins. I landed my luggage in the afternoon, and Sen. Espinosa passed it without examination with a very polite bow. After a great deal of difficulty and search, we found an empty room to sleep in, and after another search, a bedstead and table. In no part of Central America is the traveller ever accommodated with any thing beyond an empty room; hence a hammock is an indispensable article in a journey, otherwise he must make shift with an untanned hide to lay upon the floor, for eating, sleeping, &c., and even this is not always to be had. The heat here was truly oppressive, even after that of Guayaquil, which is nearly under the equator, and far exceeded anything I ever felt even in the tropical parts of Asia and Africa. I afterwards found that it is the hottest place in Central America."

He goes on to Leon, which he informs us "is the second city in the republic, and once contained 50,000 inhabitants, though now it certainly has not half that number. Since the independence, it has been the scene of several bloody revolutions, and in 1824, made a desperate defence of 114 days against the federal troops, who were finally re-

pulsed with loss. At least a third part of the city is now in ruins, and the whole has a most wretched and desolate appearance. The inhabitants, who, it is said, were once among the most peaceful and industrious of the republic, are now noted as the worst of all Central America, and are engaged in perpetual broils. Assassination is now so common in the state of Nicaragua, that it is little thought of, and is almost never punished by the authorities; but the relations of the murdered man, if he has any, generally revenge his death by another assassination, and unless the victim be a person of importance, the assassin merely keeps out of the way for a day or two, and reappears without fear. I have seen a native enter a house in Realajo with his hands bloody, and when questioned as to the cause, reply with great coolness, that he had met such and such a person on the road, and as he had long determined to kill him, had just plunged his knife into his body, and left him in the wood. On my first arrival I felt naturally somewhat shocked at such a recital; but I afterwards heard assassination so commonly and coolly talked of, that such stories seemed nothing strange nor out of the usual course."

Volcanoes and earthquakes, goitres and gambling, everlasting revolutions and murderous executions, pervade the country, which is, nevertheless, to a vast extent most fertile and capable of being made wonderfully productive and rich. Woods, gums, dyes (indigo and cochineal), coffee, sugar, cocoa, and precious ores might be exported to an incredible amount; but evil habits, and unsettled conditions, and bad governments cripple the whole; and after a historical glance at affairs from 1821, the Declaration of Independence, to the latest time, the author justly sums up:

"During the year 1846 various attempts were made by different states to induce the rest to unite in forming a federal government. The 15th of May was appointed for the meeting, in Sonsonate, of two representatives from each state, but at the appointed day only the deputies from San Salvador and Costa Rica had arrived; those of Honduras and Nicaragua arriving a few days afterwards. The deputies from Guatemala did not, however, appear till the middle of July, during which time one of the representatives from Costa Rica had died, and the other refused to act alone, so that the rest dispersed without effecting anything towards a reunion of the states, or the formation of a general government. It is evident that Carrera, who exercises the government of Guatemala, is little inclined to agree to the formation of any central or federal power which might afterwards be used to control his own authority; and the new government, established in Costa Rica by the revolution of the 7th of June, has passed resolutions declaring that state separate and independent from the rest; consequently no hopes can be entertained for the present of a resuscitation of the republic of Central America. In the mean time, the states of San Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, may be said to possess popular governments legally elected, and Guatemala and Costa Rica absolute and self-elected governments; and it is rather a bad sign of their capacity for enjoying constitutional liberty, that the three states possessing a popular government are decidedly in the most miserable and disorganised state; but it must also be remembered that the three popular governments are almost newly elected, none having yet existed for two years continuously, which is not sufficient to enable us to judge of their effects upon these states. During the brief period of the independent existence of the nominal republic of Central America (a country inferior in extent to any of the other provinces of America once belonging to Spain, and only containing about 2,000,000 of inhabitants), no fewer than 396 persons have exercised the supreme power of the republic and the different states, under the names of chiefs, governors, presidents, directors, or ministers under these officers; which fact alone, without the preceding outline of revolutions and

massacres, would shew the unparalleled want of stability in the government of a country which, possessing one of the richest territories in the world, and a situation without exception the most favourable for commerce of any part of the globe, has reached the lowest state of poverty, while its trade is nearly wholly destroyed, and the people entirely corrupted, and brought to the most wretched and disorganised condition of any country in the whole catalogue of nations pretending to the smallest degree of civilisation. Little hope can be entertained of any permanent improvement in Central America till some man of decided ability shall unite the states, and form a central government capable of making itself feared or respected by all parties, or till it shall fall under the dominion of some foreign power capable of forming a firm and powerful government of a nature suited to the country, overawing the factious, and affording ample protection to the industrious and well-disposed. It is to be hoped that one or other of these events may soon occur to rescue this delightful country from its present anarchy, and gradually place it in the elevated rank which it would undoubtedly hold under an enlightened government."

The present state of the people not only justifies this speculative prospect, but appears to us to allow little hope of its speedy realisation; for "the ignorance, vice, and superstition prevailing in Central America, are probably hardly to be equalled in any other part of the world, unless it may be in the interior of Africa or the East India islands. In the towns, not one in ten can read or write, and in many parts of the country, not one in a thousand. In many villages containing some thousand inhabitants, no person is to be found who can read, and when a traveller is compelled to shew his passport to the alcalde, who is the first civil and criminal judge, he is generally requested to read it. Morality is at the lowest ebb among all classes, especially the whites and creoles; indeed, I could never find that among them any disgrace was attached to any sort of crime except petty larceny. Murder, perjury, forgery, and swindling of all sorts are considered as quite venial. The priests are, for the most part, blind leaders of the blind; and the better educated merely consider themselves as actors, whose business it is to extort money by acting the part which will please the people. Forms and religious parade are carefully kept up, but no one thinks of inculcating private morality or even decency. The marriage ceremony is, also, as might be expected, considered merely as a form to keep up public decency, and both man and wife act in private as they please. I never have found any native of Central America who would admit that there could be any vice in lying; and when one has succeeded in cheating another, however gross and infamous the fraud may be, the natives will only remark, '*Que hombre vivo*' (what a clever fellow). All classes are addicted to gambling, and far more money changes hands in this manner than in commerce or any legitimate business. Nearly all the Guatemala merchants, who are the only ones possessed of any capital, have commenced their career with some rascality. One of the richest of them was some years ago, when in bad circumstances, sent to look after a quantity of very valuable goods which had been abandoned by the carriers in some revolutionary panic; but, instead of restoring the goods to their owner, he altered the marks, and so mixed them together, that when they came to Guatemala they could not be identified; there he managed to keep the greater part, by selling which he at once accumulated a good capital for commencing business; and being a shrewd dealer, and above all, a successful gambler, he has realised what is in Central America a large fortune, and he is courted by all the Belize merchants. Concubinage is common among all possessed of any wealth; nor is this, as in other countries, done secretly, if at all; but even wives will publicly speak of their husbands' mistresses, and express

their approbation and disapprobation of their taste. Nearly all the purchases and sales are conducted by women, who among the lower classes plant the maize for the family, make the tortillas carry the surplus produce to market, and bring back the proceeds; while the men are lying all day in their hammocks, or dosing under the shade of a tree. I only speak of the lower and middle classes, as the women of the higher ranks are as depraved and indolent as the men.

"The character of the indigenous Indians is very various in different parts of the country. Some of their villages, such as the Ravinal, and many others of smaller extent, are inhabited by a very industrious class of natives, who form the best workmen in the state of Guatemala, their dress being neat and clean, and their conduct humble and courteous; while in others, the people are lazy and insolent, and go entirely naked, with the exception of a cloth round the middle. They are all very shrewd in their dealings, and their promises may much more safely be trusted to than those of the white and mixed breeds. The greater part are continually intoxicated whenever they have the means of being so, and make a habit of drinking on the Sunday all they have gained in the week, without ever saving anything to take home to their villages. To this, however, the Indians of the Ravinal, and some other places, are an exception; they will walk fifty and sixty leagues to Amatitlan and Old Guatemala to seek work, and remain a month or two, spending almost nothing upon their food, but when returning home they will purchase some article of dress, and take the rest of their gains to spend in their native village; they are noted for their honesty and veracity, and are said to be very moral in their private lives. The Indians of the Altos are, also, generally an industrious class, and by them is spun nearly all the clothing used by the lower and middle classes of Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and all the temperate parts of Central America."

Among this population there are as foreigners a number of natives of Spain, "being generally emigrants from Andalusia and Murcia, either of the lower classes, or desperate adventurers who have been ruined in their own country, and come to Central America to push their fortunes in any manner. Unfortunately, they form the great bulk of the commercial class excepting the petty dealers, and have a character decidedly worse in all respects than the same class among the natives. I do not think (adds Mr. Dunlop) there are a dozen English in all Central America; there may be thirty or forty French, and as many Germans, and twenty or thirty of all other foreigners, excepting the Belgians, who, since the formation of the colony of St. Thomas, are much more numerous in the state of Guatemala." This latter speculation, however, is not prospering.

The mercantile intelligence contained in the volume is of a valuable nature; and there is, *inter alia*, the best description of the produce and manufacture of cochineal that we have ever perused. Visits to remarkable volcanoes are also extremely interesting, as well as the records of their past frightful ravages. For example:

"Previously to 1835, the mountain, called Cosiguina was taken for an extinct volcano, although there were traditions of its having been in a state of eruption upwards of 300 years before, and abundant vestiges of its previous ravages. At half-past six in the morning of the 20th of January, 1835, the inhabitants of Chinendega, Leon, Realejo, La Union, San Miguel, and the neighbouring country were alarmed by a loud explosion, and imme-

diately afterwards all the horizon was illumined by a dense yellow light, and a strong odour of sulphur was smelt, while a heavy shower of fine white powder fell, penetrating into every recess, and rendering respiration painful and difficult: this continued till one o'clock in the morning of the 23d, the sun and stars being meanwhile invisible, and a pale sickly light, like some of the London fogs, pervading the country; at the same time a terrific explosion was heard throughout all Central America, and as far as the borders of Mexico, the republic of New Granada, and the island of Jamaica. The scene that followed was terrific in the extreme—the birds rushed out of the woods, and fell down dead in the fields and villages—the wild beasts wandered into the towns and along the public roads, bellowing with terror, their natural ferocity and timidity being equally subdued. The astonished people supposed that the day of judgment was come, and rushed to the churches, throwing themselves upon the floors before the images of their saints; others confessed their sins and implored mercy; all was terror and dismay; and, to complete the horror of the scene, a terrific darkness, deeper than the most obscure night, continued for forty-three hours; so that no person could see a yard before him, and even artificial lights could not be distinguished at more than a few feet distance. During this time there were continued noises, louder than the most terrific peals of thunder, accompanied by lightnings, which played in all directions, rendering the darkness more terrible, and such immense quantities of ashes fell as in some parts to cover the earth three feet deep. These effects were more or less felt to a distance of fifty leagues round the volcano, as far as the capital of the state of San Salvador—about fifteen leagues distant in a direct line from the volcano; and Don Juakin Salgero, at that time collector of customs (*administrador de la Aduana*), told me that words could not describe the terrific nature of the scene; and considering it, as he did, to be an eruption of the extinct volcano of Conchagua, distant about a league, or some neighbouring mountain, he set off for San Miguel in the midst of the darkness, some men carrying torches of lighted pine to discover the road, which, however, was very difficult, as the darkness was so pitchy that a torch could not be seen at three yards' distance. He was accompanied in his flight by a number of the terrified inhabitants, some on foot, and some on mules and horses. The cattle and even the wild animals followed the lights along the road; while the birds came and lit upon the persons and horses of the travellers, and would not be driven away; even the lizards and other reptiles seemed to look to them for protection, instead of flying from them as usual. They reached San Miguel in about fifteen hours, the usual time for the journey being half that period (it being only a distance of fifteen leagues); but on their arrival the darkness continued nearly as intense, though the other phenomena had slightly abated in violence. Two considerable streams of water flowing past the side of the mountain were covered with ashes and stones, and have since entirely disappeared; and immediately after the eruption two islands were discovered in twelve fathoms water, a little off the coast opposite the volcano, which still exist. Not a vestige of habitations, or of animal or vegetable life remained for some leagues round the mountain, and the sites where some excellent cattle-farms existed are still pointed out, though now covered with a thick mass of cinders and charred rocks. The effects of this eruption were distinctly felt in the islands of Jamaica and Hayti, and other parts of the West Indies, and the ashes ejected reached as far as Oajaca in Mexico, a distance of 430 leagues."

Iolco in San Salvador, and Iorillo in Mexico, are the only volcanoes which have originated since the discovery of America; but all parts of Central America, with the exception of the plains of Nicaragua, bear the most certain proofs of having at

some period suffered most tremendous catastrophes by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. More than half the states of Guatemala and San Salvador are covered with scorie and vitrified stones, the greater part of which appear as fresh as if they had just been ejected from the crater of some volcano, though in many cases there is no mountain bearing the appearance of ever having been volcanic within twenty leagues; and in other cases the volcanoes from which they would appear to have been ejected must have been extinct for many ages, and now present no vestiges of craters, their volcanic origin being principally deduced from their shape, or the layers of the strata. In many cases the vitrified stones, which have been ejected and forced to a distance of five or six leagues, are of enormous size, and must weigh many hundred tons; hence fearful as are some of the recorded volcanic eruptions, they are nothing to compare with those which must formerly have taken place.

"In all the mountainous parts of the states of San Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, the broken state of the different strata proves the occurrence of a vast succession of earthquakes. Near Old Guatemala the granite is in many places raised upwards several hundred feet, and the strata in places is broken off short as if the uplifting force had been applied to one part only, while other parts have been very unequally raised, or, perhaps, depressed. In some parts, the rock appears to have been decomposed in some places, while others have remained solid; and the decomposed parts being washed away by water have left immense ravines, exposing the superincumbent strata to the depth of upwards of 1000 feet, the whole being composed of successive layers of scorie, lava, vitrified stones, volcanic sand and gravel, which have evidently been successively ejected from the neighbouring volcanoes, until they have attained this enormous depth. In every part of the states of Guatemala and San Salvador which I have visited, the earth is mixed with cinders and vitrified stones; and the soil in all parts appears to consist of decomposed volcanic matter, with a small admixture of vegetable substances. Between the city of San Salvador and Cajutepeke, the surface of the country is divided into ridges resembling the waves of the sea, the average depression and elevation appearing to be about 500 feet. In many places the granite and gneiss strata are forced up perpendicularly, and in others appear as if they had been broken off and turned over. The original inequality, after the catastrophe or succession of movements which caused it, must have been much greater than it appears at present, as the rains have washed down the softer parts of the rocks into the valleys, which now contain portions of level and sloping land, evidently composed of materials washed from the heights. Vast assemblages of boulders are to be seen in many parts of the states of Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica; in some places they are intermixed with volcanic rocks, so that it is difficult to decide whether they have been ejected from some volcano, or conveyed to their present position by an immense rush of water. All the rocks I have seen are composed of granite, gneiss, basalt, or some volcanic ejection, no part appearing to be of secondary formation; and the sand appears all to be either of direct volcanic formation, or formed by the trituration of the rocks in question."

A brief conclusion in reserve for next Saturday.

Giella. By the Author of "Second Love." 3 vols. Bentley.

ONE of the cleverest novels of the season; and full of descriptions so clearly and forcibly made out, that you cannot help fancying yourself in the midst of them, taking part with the actors engaged in the living business of the story. It is no small compliment to say, that it often reminds us of the admired passages in Andersen's writings, and particularly of *Only a Fiddler*. With regard to the plot, it possesses much originality, and is compli-

"There are many customs which would sound very strange to English ears. For instance, it is quite common for unmarried ladies and gentlemen, in the most respectable families, to sleep in the same room, and in beds almost touching each other. The free manner of speaking with either sex is not less surprising to a stranger; and what would be thought the most indecent expression in the lowest company of England, would be a pretty compliment to the most delicate young lady in Costa Rica."

ated with due effect; whilst the episodes are interesting, and the intrigues related in a manner which could not excite an emotion of dislike in the most fastidious mind. And this is a rare and great merit in fiction, which paints life with its errors and its vices to the most accurate shade, and in vivid colours. Hungary is the locality, and the *dramatis personæ* belong to several continental nations, and move in various ranks of life. An honest pot-binder, alias tinker, called Petike, is one of the best drawn characters, and is well contrasted with the principal personage, though also the worst,—a priest or archimandrite, whose doings have much influence throughout the whole. We might quote innumerable pages to illustrate what we have said in praise of *Gisella*, but, as we trust that praise will cause it to be very generally read, we shall be brief and sententious.

A description on the Danube runs thus; "Immediately beneath the steep rocks upon which towered, tier above tier, the fortress walls, stood, on the side of the fortifications, the furthest from the river and the town, a small house, or rather hut, seemingly half ensconced in the rock side, and looking like the head of some underground animal, partially peeping out of its den. It was itself somewhat raised above the road, upon a small platform, to which a few steps cut in the earth, and covered with planks, conducted. But, although the hut itself bore the meanest appearance, this platform had been carefully tilled into a little garden, which had its little arbour, and its little round bed of dahlias and balsams, and its little sanded path around the little bed, and its little acacia, with a little bench below its shade, and a little table before it. From this miniature garden a few other steps conducted downwards to a small shed with a slated roof, as was the hut, shelving also from the rock, and standing apart upon its own minor platform, like a little outpost, as if in make-believe imitation of the great fortress frowning above, but alas! ill protected from any aggression that might be attempted from the other side, if an attack were to be made for any purpose of larceny during the winter months when it contained its store of firewood; although now it was empty of all but a little not very tempting lumber. At the small window of the hut were displayed faded-looking ginger-bread cakes, with gipsy faces, small-poxed with comfits, and a variety of indescribable lollipops, and other matters of small confectionary, together with a more alluring display of the fruits of the season; while a rudely painted tablet, nailed to the door-stall, announced, in German, that the extraordinary luxury of cider, as also fresh milk, and likewise coffee, might be had within for the refreshment of such persons who, upon wandering these ten steps from the town, might find themselves already weary, and desire to enjoy such refreshment, in the arbour, or beneath the shade of the acacia. To this habitation Petike directed his steps."

The following reminds us of G. P. R. James:

"The rider was a man of about forty years of age, whose upright carriage, peculiarly-fashioned travelling-coat, and well padded chest, imparted to his general bearing the stamp of a person who had seen military service; while, at the same time, the closely cut fair hair, the scanty whisker, shaven so as to incline towards the corners of the mouth, and the bristly fair moustachio, might have led, in those accustomed to remark the petty distinctions which characterise military men of different nations, to the supposition that it was in the Russian army he had served. His face was full and short; but his features were not without a certain degree of distinction: his eye was light, clear, and chilly as a frosty day; and the only expression of his motionless physiognomy consisted in a cold bland smile, which long habit seemed to have rendered a permanent trait of his features, and stereotyped, as it were, upon his lips. The scenes through which this personage passed, as he climbed the rough path, along a steep and broad ravine, were full of those

picturesque beauties to be found in a broken and well wooded mountain country; for now the road overhung a deep precipice, and admitted a glimpse of the rocky bed of a slender stream below—now lay between a thick wood of luxuriant chestnuts and beeches, which almost obscured the light of day—and now again, at a sudden turn, commanded a wide view, over the sloping sides of the valley, to the northern plains behind, and the distant stream of the Danube."

An idiot child,—we have before us a young Hungarian of the lower class:

"His dress was that true national costume which has extended itself to all lands as the original model of the hussar uniform. His nether person was attired in the closely-fitting blue pantaloons, richly braided with yellow cord about the pockets and front, and in the tasselled boots, mounting midleg, which are so characteristic of the country. The laced vest, however, and the embroidered dolman had been thrown aside on account of the heat of the day; and he lay in his full white shirt-sleeves, with open throat, reclining listlessly upon one elbow, and slightly raised from the floor, in an attitude half of oriental opiate indolence, half of deep and far from sleepy thought. His features also were of that doubtful character and cast so peculiar to the eminently handsome Hungarian race, the expression of which is such a singular mixture of easy, careless indolence, and wild, animated energy,—a seeming contradiction which exists, however, in a striking degree in the true Hungarian stamp. The forehead, from which the dark hair had been dashed aside with a bold sweep, was broad and noble; the eyes were dark and full, and wore the same mixed, variable expression which communicated itself to the whole face; while the dark eyelashes, equally thick on the lower as on the upper lids, imparted to them an undeniably oriental type. The nose was formed in that hardy curve, which betrays a noble and decided character, but does not outstep the bounds of beauty. Another line, perhaps, had rendered it too prominent; as it was, it only added to the character of the face, without detracting one iota from its symmetry. The mouth was full and manly, but curved in a smiling wave, which removed every expression of harshness from the physiognomy, although it left a sufficient degree of resolution, almost amounting to obstinacy, in the general look, to give an insight into the character of its possessor. The upper lip was marked by a thin, black moustache, wiredrawn at the extremity in a manner so as to contribute no little to that look of hardy resolution. The contour of the face was oval, and left without any beard. And so he lay, with his dark eyes fixed upon the ground before him, as if he were engaged in studying every chink and crack in the clay floor of the portico."

"Not far from this personage sat on a low stool a young woman, whose general cast of countenance bore a considerable resemblance to that of the young man, although her complexion was fairer, and the features and expression tempered and subdued to meet the beauty and character of the other sex. She also possessed the striking air of natural grace and nobleness so common among the Hungarians; but the beauty of her face was already blighted by a look of care and sickness, as well as by the premature ravages of time: her years were evidently more, by two or three, than those of the young man. A white kerchief was bound loosely over her dark hair, and hung about her ears; a white apron, embroidered with gay coloured threads below, covered in part her simple blue dress. By her side stood a spinning-wheel, the spindle of which was loaded with flax: but the wheel stood still, and the thread remained motionless between the fingers of her hands, which lay listlessly upon her lap, as she bent her head, with a look of deep melancholy, over a child, a little girl, about eight years of age, which sat or rather squatted between her knees. Of the whole group the child possessed the most singular, and,

at that moment, the most animated physiognomy. Her complexion was far more swarthy than that of the other personages, her hair of a still blacker tint; her eyebrows were more strongly marked, her eyes, although small, more dark and penetrating. But of those eyes the expression was so strange, that they could scarcely be looked upon without a feeling of awe. There was a vacant gaze in their fixed regard, as they stared forward into the waste, which was singularly at variance with a wild glare of animation, if not of intelligence, which gleamed from them from time to time. The smile of the half open mouth wore also the vague, unsettled expression of the idiot; and yet even that smile was crossed at moments by an undefinable and quickly evanescent flash of what in another face might have been termed 'soul,' and even in the seemingly witless child might be fancied to reveal a latent kindred spirit with some unearthly, almost divine essence. Her figure was frail, and singularly spare, even for her age; and her simple white dress, which consisted only of a long loose-sleeved garment, fashioned somewhat like the surplice of a chorister child, and barely bound around her waist, contrasted strongly with her swarthy skin, and dark thin face. Headless or unconscious of the tender look of love and care that was shed down upon her from the pensive eyes of the female who bent over her, the child continued to gaze intently, but with a seeming restlessness, into the wide desert plain before the house."

"The silence which had long reigned between these three personages was at last broken by the young man, after he had considered, for a few minutes, the child, whose expression, as she looked over the plain, was that of admiration, not unmixed with surprise and awe. 'What does she see, Irma?' he said, addressing the young woman. 'What can she be looking at yonder?' 'Who can tell?' said the female thus accented, raising her head, with a heavy sigh. 'There are times when I cannot but fancy that, spite of her weak intellect, she sees and hears more than other mortal beings.' 'Tush!' murmured the young man, shrugging his shoulders slightly, with an air of pity, at such a supposition, but still gazing with surprise on the child's animated face. 'Nay, why not, brother?' replied Irma. 'The unhappy creatures whom the Almighty has deprived of that reason he has imparted to others upon earth, stand, perhaps, nearer him, and nearer heaven.' An interval of silence ensued, for Irma's tears began to fill her eyes, and she pressed her hands heavily before them. Her brother at last again addressed her. 'Speak to her, Irma,' he said. 'Ask her what she sees. She will hear your voice, and comprehend you better than me.' 'Ilka, my child! Ilka, lambkin dear!' murmured the mother to her girl, in the most soothing terms of cajolery. 'What seest thou yonder in the plain? Tell me, my darling!' 'Hush!' answered the idiot in a tone unusually deep for her years, raising her hand with pointed finger upwards, as if to impose silence upon her mother, but without removing her eyes from their fixed position. 'Hush! he is coming!' 'He! who?' asked Irma. 'God!' replied the child in a solemn tone. The brother and sister exchanged looks at this strange reply. But the expression which conveyed this interchange of feeling was widely different in each. That of the woman was marked by wonder, mixed with admiration, and appeared to seek a corresponding feeling, which it found not; for that of the man betrayed only sentiments of pity and commiseration, at what he seemed to consider a fresh proof of a total aberration of intellect in the child. Not a word was spoken; but the woman looked vexed at her brother's want of sympathy in her feelings, and again bent down her head over the girl. 'Ilka! my sweet one,' she said soothingly, 'God is invisible. How then shouldst thou see him? God is in the heavens above. How then should he come?' 'God is in the sky! God is in the

wind! God is in the green trees! God is every where!" replied the idiot child, without removing her eyes from the point at which she gazed. "God comes to make fine houses—beautiful, very beautiful, and bright, bright gardens!" And thus speaking, she stretched out her finger over the plain, upon the horizon of which was now dimly visible a very faint haze or vapour of that flickering description which may be frequently seen rising on a hot day from moist soils, but which was rare amid the arid sands of the Pusztá. Irma heaved a deep sigh, and did not venture to look again upon her brother."

We confess that these are very imperfect samples of the talent displayed in this novel, and have consequently the more reason, in justice to the author, to repeat that it well merits and will well reward perusal.

FAIRY LORE.

The Ant Prince; a Rhyme. By Fanny Steers. Pp. 42. Pickering.

IN our last we paid our compliments to a very pleasing rhyme of *Cinderella*, and have now to perform the same duty to a very smart and clever composition, of the same genus, though different species, which does much credit to the lady-writer's acuteness and talent. Hers is a story of tragic love—the lover being an Ant Prince, the beloved a Queen Bee, and the other leading character a faithful Fly, the friend and emissary of his Royal Highness. There is a dry whimsical humour, occasionally tinged with a neat satire, in the conduct of the affair; and it sometimes seems as if little touches were covertly applicable to human circumstances. The author reclining on a lovely bank, all of a sudden hears a strange sound, almost like magic,

"Which, though truly unearthly, came up from the ground;

and we farther learn that

"The tone was, though masculine, gentle and mild,
Yet it was not the voice of bird or of child,
But, like that of conscience, so still and so small,
That it greatly resembled nothing at all."

This proceeds from the Ant Prince becomings his fate and hopeless love; to whom enters the aforesaid Fly, and a long colloquy takes place between the despairing and the consoling; the former narrating the rise of his flame and the cause of his anguish. Sir Fly counsels the sending of a letter to the lady, and offers to carry it; previous to which we read in digression of

"The soldier of love in the frame of an Ant!
Some consider that passion a sacred flame
But for me to pronounce would be far too presuming;
Still, from what little twinge I have had of that same,
I can venture to say it is mighty consuming.
Of course you're acquainted with natural history,
Where there's much that is clear, and more that is
mystery;
And therefore you know that insects can bite,
Can enrage one another, can quarrel, can fight;
E'en unto death; then, why the thought spurn,
That if fiercely they fight, they as fiercely may burn?
However, to prove it no pains I'll bestow,
For what I assert, I with certainty know."

The Prince's epistolary correspondence is charmingly described:

"Of a humming-bird's feather the pen was made,
And a nut-shell, the finest, held the ink,
And for paper a quire of white rose-leaves was laid,
With wax o' the bee, as ye well may think.
A small signet-ring moreover was there,
And all was perfumed with finest rose-otto,
The device was a wee little hive, I declare,
And 'Je voudrais y être,' was the motto.

Now, when they were ready, these implements fine,
The Prince sighed, as if something ailed him,
And to send the epistle seemed nigh to decline,
For he freely confessed his heart failed him.
Adding, 'My passion to write would methinks be a
blunder,

For though I could sing it, or read it, or tell it,
I own to thee, friend, what may well make thee wonder,
That nothing on earth could e'er teach me to spell it.
Here the marvellous Fly opened his queer 'little eye';
Nay, in utter surprise he stretched wide the twain;
But when his amazement the Prince seemed to spy,
With a very great effort he closed them again."

Saying, gravely, 'To spell is so humble an art
That insects of genius seldom acquire it;
For to think of the eye while addressing the heart
Is such a trouble a pedant alone could require it.'
To the Prince 'twas contentment too cheering to name,
To hear something like praise when he justly feared
blame;

So he pondered a while, as if deeply thinking,
Commenced knitting his brows and his eyelids blinking,
Then mended his pen, and said, 'Let me see,
'Twere best to begin with a bouncing B.'

[The Prince writes.

'B of beauty! B superflue!
Be but less cold to me, be but B mine,
And thou'lt be of all B's the B most divine.
Be but willing to cure one thou'lt been nigh to kill.
And pity the pains Love through me is twinging;
Then in death as in life thou wilt be worship'd still,
For I'm as B witch'd as thou art B witching.
An answer of kindness O loved grant,
To comfort the heart of thy faithful

ANT.'

As the spelling was hidden by writing convenient,
'Twas really a task to decipher the scrawl,
And if faults should remain, good reader, be lenient,
For 'mid so many words well may wrong letters fall.
When the writer, poor soul! did ABC (a Bee see) in all.
Now the billet was sealed with the signet-ring,
And the Fly undertook to bear it,
So he carefully fastened it under his wing,
That nothing might sully or tear it.
Then, not without sadness, he wended his way,
As success in his mission was dubious;
For in case of her Majesty uttering 'nay,'
The effect might be truly lugubrious."

The deliverance of the missive and its consequences are related with equal naïveté; the messenger is rather too bold of speech, and suffers therefore, which we rather approve, as it leads to a very pretty little piece of episodic description:

"I have lauded the fragrance of chestnut and lime,
Although oft inducing faintness and coma;
I have talked of the myrtle and low mountain thyme,
With its weaker but far more refreshing aroma.
Sweet is the odour of egantine wild,
Sweeter the woodbine and May-blossom fair,
But there is a smell more subtle, more mild,
More exquisite still—the delicious fresh air.
If thou have lain on a sufferer's bed,
Or ever have lingered in crowded hall,
Though odours the finest were round thee shed,
Hast thou not often, with longing sighs, said,
'One breath of fresh air is worth them all!'
And once more to roam o'er the heathery glen,
When the bright morning sun cheers all things beneath
it,

To feel the soft breeze fan our pale brow again,
Oh, then is the time that 'tis heaven to breathe it!
Then it was rapture the pure air to sniff,
After the atmosphere close of the hive,
And although the Fly's limbs were rather stiff,
The freshening breeze made his vigour revive."

He reports the failure of his embassy, and gives us the Queen's answer as follows:

"No more, O Prince, can we be permitting
Thy hapless flame,
And of what in our conduct has been unwitting,
We own the blame;
When a fire burns brightest 'tis most near the sifting,
Be thy love the same!
An Ant for Prince Consort is too un B fitting
Even to name.

Thine, royal and free,
Aplia, the B."

The fatal catastrophe we feel too much to tell.
Suffice it to state that it illustrates literally

"The B all and the end all, here"
of Hamlet; but we conclude with the Fly's moral,
which congenially terminates this clever *jeu d'esprit*.

"Have not extremes the same fate oft?"
He said, with all his usual tenderness;
'The Prince is dead from heart too soft,
The Queen from very great perverseness.'
Still, lingering near, a while he stay'd,
As if nought else on earth he heeded;
Then wandered forth, and justly said,
'My presence now is no more needed.'"

Astronomy established on a Principle practically proving the Words of Joshua, &c. By J. D. Hailes, Linton, Cambridgeshire. Pp. 22. Lond., Kettle. WHAT, after all, does signify the meeting at Oxford, or any where else, of Le Verrier, Adams, Herschel, Airy, Robinson, Hamilton, Rosse (Earl) of the Telescope, and all the heavenly host of Astronomers, Royal, Noble, Learned, or Plebeian, when a humble individual (dear Cambridge, certainly, and thus within the atmosphere of wisdom and calculation) can excel them all, and by means of a "Kettle" more potent than Medea's, or that

of the witches in *Macbeth*, demonstrate that they know nothing about the matter, notwithstanding their pseudo planetary, cometary, and lunatic intelligence? Mr. Hailes' grand proposition is pithily and poetically laid down in a couplet, such as we presume none of the above named, not even Airy, would presume to match, or meet as a Mellibonous might a Tityrus:

"My object is to confirm the Truth by Time, which is Divine,
Wrought by Magnetic Principles, on the Analemma Line."

It seems that Mr. Hailes has informed the three Royal Societies of London that he could "produce a System of the Sciences, upon a principle that shall Measure the Time when the Sun was Vertical to Gibeon, as recorded by Joshua, and afterwards to Syene, as recorded by Strabo, Pliny, &c.;" but they appear to have been so dumfounded by the offer as to be utterly unable to answer his letter, and he has consequently issued this his challenge to "all the world," with a forfeiture of 1000*l.* (say a thousand pounds) if he fail in establishing his principle. Surely nothing can be more fair; and so thinking, we are willing to hold the stakes if the competitors desire it.

Mr. Hailes is of opinion that the moon had passed through 188 cycles from the creation to the era of the Metonic cycle; and that the new moon in the year 3573 was on the 2d of June. His grounds are not stated; but we are bound to bow to such an authority. He then goes to the magnet; and leaving his proof of the variations every century in London, past and to come, he declares the variation at Gibeon in 1847 to be "near 16° west of the meridian!" This is followed by a most original poem, entitled "Moses' Birth," from which we learn that

"Moses married Zipporah, the Ethiopian woman,
The daughter of Jethro, the priest of Midian.
In the Bible it is recorded she bore him two sons,
One was called Eliezer, the other Gershom.
Moses' age, when he married, was years forty, no more,
And when he first spoke to Pharaoh, he was four score.
With his rod he conducted the Israelites through the
Red Sea,
The Lord did overthrow the Egyptian Host same time in
this sea.
Then Moses and the Israelites together did sing."

That

"He erected an Altar, called it Jehovah-nissi,
He made an Altar of Shittim wood to burn incense also,
And two silver trumpets for the Sons of Aaron to blow."

And it thus, appositely to the argument, concludes:

"Moses made a speech to Israel, all people may spy
In fifth book of Moses, first chapter of Deuteronomy.
He said of being in the wilderness, it was the fortieth
year.
Soon after, died Moses, aged one hundred and twenty
years.
Moses was succeeded by Joshua, who was the Son of Nun.
He made the people on dry ground pass over the river
Jordan.
And he commanded the sun to stand still on Gibeon.
And the moon for about a day in the valley of Ajalon.
Joshua's miracle, as to time, it appears to me, must be
proved.
By Sun and Latitude of Moon when over Ajalon it stood,
Before the year of Moses' birth (by record) can be
proved."

A few of the oldest eclipses, one or more before the Flood, are next passed in review; to which is added a list of the most ancient battles, which naturally lead, by squares and circles, to the solution of the problem of squaring the circle. It is thus done:

"Let 291 feet 1 inch and 10½ parts of an inch be contents of circle or square.

The circle will agree with the square—except to the
puncture of a small pin—I declare.

And I challenge to disprove the above contents for circle or square:—

I am JOHN (43. Old!) DAVEY HAILES."

After assuring us that Europe increases in latitude, Mr. Hailes moots the momentous question, "What is the proper definition of the Word *Hail*?" leaving us, however, in the dark about it. Still, we should say, in consideration of the uncommon genius and knowledge displayed in this small publication, that it might be advisable for the Barons de Rothschild to consult our author on the system they ought to adopt in order to secure their returns

for London, Hythe, or other parliamentary constituencies. If there be any man in England of competent second sight to advise them, and carry them safe through the pole (qy. poll), he is that man.

LEXICOGRAPHY.

Spier's General English and French Dictionary.
London, Whittaker and Co.

THIS French and English Dictionary, undertaken, we understand, in 1835, and consequently the result of many years' industry, is based upon the last edition of the Dictionary of the French Academy, with the addition of the science of modern times, and the technical phraseology of our own century, including the terms of commerce, political economy, arts and manufactures, and comprehending the literature of the two countries down to the latest day. That there are many dictionaries, we may say too many, already in circulation, is perfectly true; and with such an abundance it may appear to many that the introduction of a new work is useless and ill-timed; but let us shortly review the history of French and English lexicography, as it may present features entirely new to those who are most deeply interested in the subject, and yet too plainly stamped to be either false or exaggerated. The basis of all the present French and English dictionaries, viz. Boyer's, was published in the year 1702. At that period, on the authority of Chesterfield, there was no lexicon of our native tongue extant; and the first edition only of the French Academy, when Johnson sent forth his gigantic work in 1755. Chambaud certainly availed himself of his definitions, though he carefully avoided giving the direct and legitimate equivalent; presenting, in short, to the student every thing except the identical object of his search.

To say that all similar publications since that time are nothing more than other editions of the same work, in different sizes, and published under the name and authority of different editors, is to say too little; indeed, the great essentials for a lexicographer in our times, at least as far as the English and French languages are concerned, appear to have been hitherto, in lieu of pen and ink, paste and brush. A few additional words, gleaned indiscriminately from all sources, and their acceptations carefully blended together, the proper with the figurative, so as to afford a delightful literary maze, in which the student may wander, but not extricate himself, at will; a few alterations, or, as the compilers are pleased to call them, corrections; the old typographical errors most sedulously preserved, and a few additional blunders of the same nature inserted, and the dictionary is in itself complete. The next and crowning feat is to crowd into the title-page all the names of all lexicographers past and present; and to take credit in the opinion of the world for constant reference to the pages of Webster, Ure, and McCulloch, when the whole of the compilers' acquaintance with them appears evidently to be confined to the titles of the several works as announced in the circulars of their respective publishers.

The author of the *Night Thoughts*, were he still living, could explain no more clearly than he did years ago, the devotion he felt towards Fenelon for his kind sympathy, by the assurance that the Archbishop had "the gut of a father towards him" (vous avez toujours eu pour moi des *boyaux** de père); and our continental neighbours are still exposed to *squeeze* (to press) ladies to accept their services, and to maintain that God *défend*† adultery. Indeed, so merciless have lexicographers hitherto been, that up to the year 1839, in which the prospectus of the present dictionary was issued, they did their little all to deprive us even of obtaining the means of subsistence for our inward man, and the necessary appendages in the way of dress for

our outward man. We look for the equivalent for *waistcoat*, the word *gilet* exists not: courage! we may, at a pinch, dispense with the waistcoat if we can but get the *trousers*. But the word *pantalon* is also dishonoured, *not est inventus*. Therefore, for all the lexicographers have done for us, we may be nothing better than a horde of civilised savages, not having even the credit of economy on our side, which Sam Slick recognises in the bare legs of a Highlander among his heather, "that the skin, when torn, grows again; but breeches won't." Another gentleman presents us with the terms, "*aspiring-pump*," "*brute weight*," "*naught money*," "*fund and its accessory*," which we must translate for our readers by "*suction-pump*," "*gross weight*," "*base coin*," "*principal and interest*."

The following will be too well understood, "*He-cousin*," "*She-cousin*," "*to lay along upon the ground*," an "*exchange-man*" (for a broker), "*wind in the small guts*" (for iliac passion). To clear the dictionaries of this worse than ridiculous trash was not the least important or difficult part of the author's task; for it was so much filth that had been accumulating for a century and a half in the stables of Augeas.

No progress has been made since the days of poor Ash, who has left us a remarkable proof of his capability to undertake the office of a lexicographer. The circumstance will speak so well for itself, that we would prefer presenting it without a word of comment. Johnson, at the word "*curmudgeon*," to explain its etymology, gives it us as *cœur* (heart) and *méchant* (wicked), adding, as his authority, an unknown correspondent. Ash, taking this to be the translation of the two French words, gives "*curmudgeon*" from *cœur*, unknown, and *méchant*, a correspondent.

We proceed to point out a few of the leading features of the present work upon which its claims to general use are founded. We may say, in the first place, there is not a word throughout the work that could raise a blush upon the most scrupulous person; a fact of grave importance to those who would educate youth in purity and unsullied innocence. In every word the different acceptations are separated by numbers, the proper senses distinguished from the figurative, the prepositions marked with the cases they govern, the differences of signification between words that are rendered by one and the same word in the other language, as in *apporter* and *amener*, to bring, *écurie* and *étable*, stable, clearly shewn, and whether the word is used in a good or a bad sense, or applied to persons or things.

We cannot better shew the difference between this dictionary and those that have preceded it than by the word "*improper*," which exists in French, but is applied only to language.

Boyer, &c.

IMPROPER, adj. *im-*
proper, qui ne convient pas.

Spier's.

IMPROPER, adj. (FOR. 10) 1. *peu propre* (à); *peu convenable* (à, de); 2. (of persons) *qui convient peu* (à); *peu fait* (pour); 3. (of things) *inconvenant*; 4. (of language) *impropre*; 5. V. FRACTION. 1. *medicine for a disease, une médecine peu propre, peu convenable à la maladie*; 2. *an person for the office, une personne peu faite pour l'emploi*; 3. *behaviour, conduite, inconvenante*; 4. *an word or expression, un mot, une expression impropre*.

The weights and measures of each country converted into those of the other are also given, with the dates of the republican months; and the pronunciation is marked upon a new and happy scheme. Racine and Corneille may now therefore hope to find their pathos more generally appreciated, and the eloquence of Bossuet and Massillon to preserve in the translation more of the force and beauty of the original. Additional words from the works of the modern writers of both languages are also given; and we thus possess a key to those rich stores of genius, and may feast, with clear intelligence, upon the great master minds of our own period.

The names of Ure, Lardner, McCulloch, Brande, and Loudon, are guarantees, in their respective de-

partments for the accuracy of the scientific details; and the work has already, we are assured, received the sanction of the University of France, and is consequently made a standard work for the colleges of that country. It has also been introduced into several important public establishments of London and the country, and seems destined to succeed in England, as it has already done in France and Belgium, when it has had time to become known. It is for the French what Riddle is for Latin, and Liddel for Greek; and although it contains 712 pages of closely printed matter in three columns, its low price places it in the power of all schools.

COULTER'S ADVENTURES IN SOUTH AMERICA.

[Third notice: conclusion.]

PURSuing its adventurous cruise, the Hound ran from New Ireland to New Hanover, and truly the natives, scenes, and incidents in both, shew how well they deserve the name of New. In the latter they discover a Bristol man, of the name of James Selwin, leading the life of another Robinson Crusoe, only more fortunate in having, instead of Friday, a Darksy wife, and pendant in the shape of a ditto widow of his sole white companion, who has been gathered to the dead. Afterwards, in New Guinea, they fall in with a king of the Horraforas, of the name of Terence, not Dan, O'Connell, who, from being a Whiteboy in the Emerald Isle, and transported for certain "*agrarian*" depredations, has escaped from Australia, and become the white ruler over a tribe mustering 2000 warriors. He hospitably entertains the strangers, and treats them to a bloody battle with an inimical tribe, which is nearly exterminated, with the aid of the six allied rifles, thus cutting their way back to the ship, and the O'Connell is left in higher dignity and greater safety than ever, having exchanged his seed pearl, gold dust, and other merchandise, in the fair way of traffic, for guns, axes, calicoes, beads, and "*other groceries*." But to return to the voyage. After the destructive fight with the natives under Boolooms, who turn out to be treacherous, the traders pass to New Hanover, where a fresh tribe of natives are met, and we read:

"On the evening of the second day, we were honoured by a visit from the royal family of this district, or bay, which they called Wattoo. They were eight in number, three men and five women; and, whether they considered these lords of the creation entitled to superior distinction from the weaker sex or not, I cannot say, but, at all events, the men were in state in an elaborately ornamented large canoe, whilst the ladies were in a small plain one, and paddled on by some of their own sex. The three men were first on deck, one of them, a man of large frame, but great age, was the king, and called by the other two chiefs who accompanied him '*Teru*,' his long hair was perfectly white and rested in folds on his shoulders and back of the neck; his face was besmeared with a mixture of grease and red ochre, round his neck he wore a large and bunched necklace, or rather collar of shells, boars' tusks, and human teeth; his skin was very dark; a fold of fine matting encircled his loins, and a kind of cape of the same material was over his shoulders, which he threw off the moment he came on board. The chiefs who came with him were small men, had their hair frizzled well out from the head, and plentifully powdered with white chalk; they had also a profusion of shell and bone ornaments on them, and both their faces were liberally streaked with white paint; as to their covering, it was as scanty as *Teru's*. After they had a stare at us, and we at them, they retired to the after part of the vessel, and the ladies were permitted to come up, which they did with every ease and confidence, but were in so undressed or naked a state, that the greater part of our men involuntarily turned round, and stepped a little out of the way. They gazed around at every thing, smiled at every one in the perfect simplicity of true bar-

* *Boyau*, in French, is never used in the figurative sense like our word '*bowels*.' It always means '*gut*.'
† *Défendre* signifies to '*forbid*' and to '*defend*.'

barism. The captain felt so awkward at such an exhibition of naked people on the deck among his crew, that he invited them at once down to the cabin to get them out of the way. It was curious to observe the aged and hoary-headed Teru handle every thing with as much curiosity as a child would a play-toy. The chiefs that were with him had more reserve, and seemed more dignified, though more ferocious in aspect. The five women, though black, were well formed and fine featured; their hair was hanging loosely on their shoulders, and made shining black with oil. They all had on necklaces of varied coloured berries. The piece of mat, which scarcely covered them from the waist to the knees, was not fastened, but merely held in one hand. In sitting down, they frequently neglected the precaution of even holding it. The king and the chiefs paid little or no attention either to them or their movements, so they had all the talk to themselves. Shortly after we were seated in the cabin with our royal friends, a young prince, grandson of the king, joined the rest of the party. He was about sixteen years old, and the most animated and engaging boy that I had seen for some time. He was remarkably handsome; the colour of his hair was not altered by powdering it like the chiefs, but it was profusely oiled. He had no ornaments whatever on, but stood before us in a nature formed him, perfectly unconscious of appearing before people in an almost naked state. Every limb and muscle was continually and gracefully in motion. As for his dark but expressive eyes, they danced in his head with rapturous delight, at every thing he saw on board our vessel. It was at once quite evident he was held in the estimation of the ladies, being as it were the Cupid of the party. They all seemed highly gratified when he looped in among them. He had a look and a smile for each; but that once over, he amused himself with every thing that appeared new to him. His youth, manners, and movements, prepossessed all in his favour; and the old king seemed greatly pleased when he saw each of us giving him some trifling present.

While bartering with these people, the folly of practical joking was deplorably illustrated.

"Amongst the articles the natives were giving us in trade, were some curiosities, such as carved clubs, paddles, necklaces, &c. One of the chiefs had on a remarkable quantity of shells and teeth curiously arranged in coils round his neck; it attracted the attention of the captain, who was desirous of obtaining it. The bargain was made, and the chief proceeded to undo it, but found some difficulty in loosening it: the purchaser volunteered to cut the cord, and lifted a large knife for the purpose of doing so. As all were merry and agreeable at the time, the captain was resolved to have a joke with the chief, when, instead of cutting the cord, which he held in one hand, he raised the other with the knife in a threatening manner, as if he were about to stab the man. The native took instant alarm, thought the captain was in earnest; made a spring clear of him, which broke his necklace, and plunged overboard. A few natives, who were on deck at the time, followed his example. Great confusion and excitement prevailed amongst the natives in the canoes about us. They yelled loudly, and threatened us with destruction by the most hideous grimaces and action of their bodies, and nearly all paddled away in haste to the shore. About two hours afterwards, a great many canoes, some of them of large size, shoved off from the shore and were paddling towards us in a dense body. As they came nearer, we could perceive the men to be much altered in appearance by the daubs of red and white paint that were on their bodies and faces, put on, I suppose, for this hostile occasion. They were also armed with bows and arrows,

spears, &c., and really looked very formidable as they approached us. A blank cartridge was first fired, in hopes they would take fright at it and be off; but such was not the case, for they continued to urge on their canoes with fearless audacity, discharging clouds of arrows at us when near enough. It so happened that our boarding nettings were out of order, and could not be tried up satisfactorily. The captain ordered the men to reserve the fire of the small arms for close quarters. A second blank cartridge was discharged from one of the guns, but all to no purpose, for they continued their course steadily on towards our vessel. Two of the carronades fired a ripping shower of grape, which told fearfully amongst the densely crowded canoes. The natives seemed to think they could board and take the vessel before we could again fire, for they reached towards us with serious rapidity. Again the fatal grape streamed through them. In a few seconds the canoes touched the vessel, and her sides, bow, and stern, were swarmed with natives striving to fight their way on board; but the rapid use of carbines, pistols, and cutlasses soon compelled them to jump into their canoes again, and many wounded bodies to drop heavily into the water. Several of our men were severely wounded, and the rest were so enraged, that, despite all the captain could do, they kept up a fire of small arms on the natives until they escaped out of range."

So many lives were sacrificed to this foolish jest; and no sooner was the affray ended than the vessel was found to be on fire, and it was only by the utmost exertion that the whole crew did not perish. They, however, got the flames under and themselves away, and again shifted about from island to island. Here are striking bits of their description:

"During the dark nights the lightning quivered over the high land, and more than once we distinctly saw volcanoes, at no great distance inland, throwing up their varied coloured flashes of light, and showers of fire descending from the craters. Many lumps of light pumice stone floated along in the current, and some specimens were lifted out of the water with a hand net. The sea around us was fairly alive with whales, particularly those of the sperm kind; flying-fish were so abundant as to resemble, when out of the water, a flight of birds. Of course, where they are, dolphins are certain to be, and numbers of them were taken. This northern side of the island makes a deep bend or curve in, and perhaps that may in some measure account for the variable winds we experienced in running along it. When about the centre of the islands and close in with the land, the current made the navigation of our vessel a matter of anxiety, particularly as the variable breeze was not unfrequently accompanied with thick hazy weather, which for hours would conceal every thing two miles off from our view. Here we were what the captain pettishly termed 'humbugged' amongst a group of small islands, which, though much out of the position laid down in the chart, were, we believed, those termed 'Willametz's Islands.'"

"We were all so glad to inhale the fragrance of the fresh herbage off the land, that most of us remained on deck enjoying it until near midnight. The mosquitos came off in numbers and annoyed some of our party a good deal; huge bats flapped about us, and some large owls manned our yards, glaring down on the deck with their fire-balls of eyes to the no little amusement of our crew."

"The southern end of the island was about two miles in extent; but, as it possessed the same appearance and had no trace of human beings, we resolved to land and have a peep into the interior. As soon as the boat rested on the beach, we landed, leaving two men in charge of the boat, with orders if any natives or any thing strange appeared, to fire a shot and let us know. Having arrived at the mangrove range, we drew our small axes from our belts and commenced cutting our way through the bushes and vines. Trainer said

it reminded him of his younger days, when he was very much addicted to breaking his way through the hedge of an apple-garden to steal the fruit. It proved certainly a difficult task to make our way through it with the small tools we worked with, and one of the men, by awkwardly handling his axe, gapped it in two or three places, and to excuse himself, made free to tell Captain Trainer—'Blow'd, sir, if this ain't tough work.' Well, we made a fair opening at last, and as soon as Trainer cast his eyes about him, he gave a loud whistle to express his amazement and delight; and no wonder, for the ground we trod on as we walked into the interior was of the richest kind, carpeted over with a rich vegetation, immense sized flowers of varied colours, and of the richest hue, reared their heads up here and there. In ranging through this carpeted bed, we were knee-deep in it; but, what a disappointment it gave some of the men, when they plucked some of these large tropical flowers to bring down to the boat, and found them wither in their hands a few moments after they were torn from the stem. The trees were all of the size of a large apple-tree, with few exceptions, and so far apart, and scattered about, as would lead one to imagine they had been planted there by some gardener; but I felt a deep pleasure in reflecting that the hand of man had not polluted this lonely solitude, and that the great Creator alone was the gardener. Parrots of the grey and green kind were very numerous, and paroquets of great beauty were resting, or fluttering and chirruping, on every small branch. Wild mustard and mint were here and there in patches. A good many large black hawks were also seen; and I brought down one of the largest and finest looking owls I ever saw, that was snugly and darkly perched in one of the trees with a perfectly thick canopy of leaves around him, and only for his legs, which were as large as a domestic cock, he would have escaped my observation. He was certainly a splendid specimen. Black centipedes were very numerous, and one that had bitten one of the men in the ankle, by being trod upon, measured fully eleven inches in length, with a back fully an inch and a half across; the claws in front were very formidable, and the curved legs were like horns; but they were not annoying, as they quickly got out of our way if they could. In the thick dark clumps of trees a number of bats, with bodies as large as rats, lay along the larger branches, which, when disturbed, showed an immense spread of wing; indeed, one that I managed to shoot was twenty-one inches from tip to tip of wing—an ugly but extraordinary looking specimen—the colour was crow black."

In another locality we are told:

"The scenery as we passed along was beautifully varied: we might term it ruggedly wild. The trees were of magnificent height, some of them with stems of sixty feet high before a branch was thrown off,—timber capable of making splendid spars for a first-rate man of war: indeed, they closely resembled the pine-tree of New Zealand. There were other trees that contrasted strongly with the one I have mentioned, particularly a kind of mahogany-tree: it had a very spreading branchy top, with a clean stem of not more than fifteen or twenty feet high, but of such enormous girth that it took four of us, with joined hands, to encircle it, and in some instances even that did not suffice. Its branches and thick foliage formed an agreeable shade for the birds, or lodging for the night, as they were full of them, particularly the black and red lorie, together with owls, &c., all of whom seemed to rest harmoniously together in this extensive common abode. The wild cat was plentiful here; and whole flocks of the birds of paradise whisked over our heads, flying very low, but fast, to their resting-place for the night."

This was in the territory of King Terence, and where our author states, "the Horraforas are a distinct race from the black Papuan. The people we are now with are not black, but of a light

"How 'perfectly' and 'almost!' but the doctor's style is not always the best and clearest; and is sometimes deformed by repeating the seamen's talk with slang and offensive outcries.—Ed. L. G.

brown colour; the hair coarse, long, and jet black, hanging over their shoulders and divided at the forehead; the features broad, high cheek-bones, bold full black eye, particularly expressive under excitement of any kind. The size of the men varies as in all other countries. Some gigantic fellows, and some diminutive; some robust and very athletic, others thin and slight; but I saw none that could be termed corpulent. All of them, old and young, were particularly active in their movements. The ornaments worn were few in comparison to what the Papuan uses; they were simply necklaces of bone or tortoiseshell, earrings of a similar description. The only covering was the small mat round the loins. Looking at the men in a body, generally, they bore a strong resemblance to the North American Indian, only for their darker colour. The Horraforas also whilst engaged in war, or during festivals or rejoicings, paint their faces and bodies in a most frightful manner in alternate streaks and circles, with red ochre and white chalk mixed up with grease. The women are by no means ordinary: there are certainly some that might be well termed ugly, but there are many instances amongst them of really handsome features and forms. The fine matting worn by them, as a short petticoat, is usually ornamented with the rich feathers of the red lorie and other birds. The matting of peculiarly fine texture, worn as a mantle over their shoulders, and enveloping their person, is also similarly decorated; but in domestic or ordinary avocations this is cast aside; and it is only where you can see them gossiping, in groups together, that this really beautiful mantle is worn. The women are industrious, whilst the men lounge about in idleness, or are engaged in fishing or acting as scouts. They are not a virtuous people, and little attention seems to be paid to the indiscretions or breach of faith of either sex. The children are stout and healthy, and amuse themselves at all sorts of athletic exercises, under the houses and amongst the trees. Their parents are fond of them, and indulge them to a great extent, for the noise and uproar of these juvenile savages at play is awful.

Poisoned Arrows.—"Connel shewed to us a portion of the liquid poison in which they dipped their arrows, making the slightest wound of them surely fatal. It was quite green; not unlike the expressed juice of our garden rue, and emitting a smell exactly similar. He said it was the juice of a small berry like the sloe, that grew on a shrub. I was anxious to see this shrub growing, but could not at the time, as it grew in the distant mountains. He also said, it was all the surer, and its effects more certain, when it had undergone fermentation in the sun. The points of the arrows were dipped in it, then dried off in the sun: and the coating of this deadly poison, when dried on the arrows, gave them a shining appearance as if they had been dipped in a greenish varnish. Sometimes they could not get it, then the arrows were of course used without it; but when they were not surrounded by an enemy, they could obtain as much of it as they required."

We will not follow the force thus armed into the great faction-fight to which we have alluded; suffice it to observe, that though a rifle-ball at the onset dropped the swaggering chief of the enemy, and many others were picked off by the Europeans as opportunity offered, the white-painted savages fought desperately till hundreds were slain; and the rest who took to flight were desperately pursued, and, as well as the wounded, despatched without mercy. A magnificent cannibal feast ensued (for cannibalism prevails throughout all this part of the world); and the widows of the Horraforas who had been killed were immediately supplied with husbands from among the surviving young warriors. Fêtes and female dancing of the most indecorous description were prevailing when the voyagers got away; and all ended prosperously with the characters with whom these volumes have made the reader acquainted. It needs not to fol-

low them to their ultimate destinations, and so we bid them all farewell, with thanks to Dr. Coulter for his singular and romantic history.

The Law of Qualification and Registration of Parliamentary Electors in England and Wales, &c. By David Power, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law. Pp. 164. London, S. Sweet.

A VERY useful work, the more particularly appropos as a general election is at hand. The substance of all the cases decided by the Court of Common Pleas since the passing of the Registration of Voters Act four years ago will be found in this work. In the text will likewise be found embodied all the important sections of the Reform and Registration of Voters Acts; and likewise the forms given by the latter statute, together with a copious index. It is, therefore, a publication for almost every hand interested in the formation of our next parliament, and will doubtless be consulted throughout the country accordingly.

Grantley Manor: a Tale. By Lady Georgiana Fullerton, author of "Ellen Middleton." Post 8vo, 3 vols. Moxon.

ENCOURAGED by the success of her first novel, Lady Fullerton has here presented us with another effort in the same line, which will undoubtedly meet with a like share of encouragement. *Grantley Manor* is very discursive, and takes us about England, Ireland, Italy, &c., in company with its heroes and heroines, without particular regard to dates. Thus the story opens at the manor-house; and as soon as we are fairly introduced to a few of the *dramatis personæ*, we are carried back to earlier years; and we have scarcely recovered the thread of the narrative before away we are hurried to Italy, to learn the birth, parentage, and marriage of the second heroine. These frequent digressions are certainly not an improvement to the conduct of the story, which is otherwise prettily written, and shews much insight into female character in the drawing of the two sisters Leslie. Altogether, *Grantley Manor* is an interesting tale, and will no doubt find favour with the gentler half of creation, who are *par excellence* the patrons of works of this class.

View of the Progress of Political Economy since the Sixteenth Century. By Travers Twiss, D.C.L., Professor of Political Economy, Oxford. 8vo, pp. 298.

A COURSE of lectures delivered by the able Professor during Michaelmas term 1846, and Lent term last, in which he takes a clear historical view of the progress of political economy from its Italian cradle to Sir R. Peel's bank-act of 1844, to which the author assigns a prospective commendation, notwithstanding it has been so much assailed by other writers. From the just and prudent to the unprincipled and wild projects and speculations here recorded, many useful lessons may be learned; and without going into the work, we may safely say that it is a very comprehensive, moderate, and useful one.

Norman Bridge; or, the Modern Midas. By the Author of the "Two Old Men's Tales," &c. 3 vols. Bentley.

The good old-gentlemanly vice of avarice is here forcibly illustrated, and the hero is one upon whom love of money increases to an intense pitch, as if increase of appetite did grow with what it fed on. It engulfs his soul, and he goes from bad to worse, till in the end the accumulation of money is the ruling, and indeed only, passion of his life, no consequences deterring him from the magpie or raven gift of acquisition and concealment. In the third generation there is a love-affair, Midas's granddaughter being the heroine; but we will tell no tales. The book is written with great talent; and its religious views are superior to most of this order of fiction, to which our readers are aware we feel many objections. Novels and religious lessons should be kept apart.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

AFRICAN GEOGRAPHY.

WE fear, from what we have since ascertained, that the account of African discoveries, &c., which we last week abridged from the *Spectator*, may lead to a misunderstanding of the actual extent of success which attended the expedition. As we read it, we imagined that Messrs. Jamieson and Becroft, and their brave companions, had reached nearly to Timbuctoo, whereas it was only the port near the insurmountable Rapids of Boussa or Houssa, and five or six hundred miles below that city. We hear of a projected survey of the Lagoons all along the Bight of Benin, on which twelve or fourteen experienced and seasoned Europeans will be engaged in canoes, and from the result of which not only much scientific information is expected, but the best means of checking, if not extirpating, the slave-trade. It is under the consideration of Government.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION: OXFORD.

WEDNESDAY.

SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

1. Barlow (Mr.) on the existence of elementary diurnal currents of electricity at the terrestrial surface.
2. Thomson (Prof. W.) on the electric currents capable of producing the phenomena of terrestrial magnetism.
3. Harper (Mr.) on the galvanic battery.
4. Brewster (Sir D.) on the diffraction bands produced by the edges of thin plates, whether solid or fluid; 5. on the dark lines in the red space beyond the red termination of Fraunhofer's spectrum; 6. on the functions of the parts of the membranes corresponding with the foramen centrale of Sommering;—and 7. on the conversion of relief in a drawing by inverting the drawing seen by a lens.
8. Boole (Mr.) on a method of definite integration.
9. Jarrett (Prof.) on the summation of certain circular functions.
10. Borchardt (M.) sur le principe du dernier multiplicateur dans les problèmes de mécanique.
11. Pasley (Major-Gen. Sir C.) on simplifying and improving our national measures, weights, and money.
12. Hodgkinson (Prof.) on the defect of elasticity in metals subject to compression.
13. Chevallier (Prof.) on the height of auroral arches.
14. Rankin (Rev. T.) on observed aurores.
15. Houghton (Sir G. C.) proofs of the antagonism of heat and electricity.
16. Hopkins (T.) on the times of occurrence of the daily atmospheric disturbances at Bombay.
17. Smyth (Prof.) on a triple differential wheel.

1. Mr. Barlow's investigations he thinks practically exhibit currents of electricity at the earth's surface. They were conducted at Derby, where the electric telegraphs of several lines of railway concentrate, and are connected with the earth. Their result was a register of spontaneous deflections during six weeks; in one direction in the morning, another in the evening, and periodically varying: by day the current from the copper to the zinc—at night from the zinc to the copper. Disconnected with the earth no action occurred.

Prof. Thomson attributed the cause of the currents observed by Mr. Barlow to chemical action on the wires.

2. Prof. Thomson set forth as proved, that terrestrial electric currents could produce all the phenomena of terrestrial magnetism. Certain closed circuits to a limited depth, he said, would satisfy all the observed effects of magnetism; and it would be easy on a map to represent their direction and values. The physical existence, therefore, of such currents is most probable; but their origin and nature remain to be discovered. Ampère's currents Prof. Thomson rejects as a physical fact.

3. A method of easily connecting the poles of a battery by means of thin spiral wires with a small helix at each end, to fit on brass points.

4. Sir D. Brewster reiterated his assertion that the diffraction bands produced by the edges of thin plates were still unexplained, notwithstanding Dr. Whewell maintains that the undulatory theory affords a complete explanation. New experiments were described, which furnish new means of observing the phenomena; and more favourably, viz. the using oil of cassia as a superior refracting medium; and a minute revolving rhomb of calcareous spar, by means of which the fringes are seen at any point of the spectrum. By the new experi-

ments, Sir D. Brewster thinks he can account for the phenomena.

5. With the Munich prism Sir D. Brewster has observed thirteen lines nearly parallel, and many others, beyond the red end of the spectrum as ordinarily seen. Many were visible one day, and not another; some in the morning, and not in the evening; and he had examined them with every care for perfect vision.

Mr. Hunt asked how far below the red extreme he had traced colour?

Sir D. Brewster: About $\frac{1}{4}$ th.

6. This communication had reference to the question whether the retina or the choroid coat be the seat of vision. It appeared to be Sir D. Brewster's opinion that the choroid is the seat of vision; and that upon it distinctness of vision depends; but that both choroid and retina are necessary to perfect vision.

7. The effects of inversion of a picture, namely, the elevated parts rising and the deep parts sinking, disappear when viewed through a magnifying-glass of an inch focus.

13. Prof. Chevallier has computed the height of three auroral arches: one in 1841, three observations, giving a height of 156, 157, and 165 miles; one in Sept. 1846, two observations, 106 miles; the other in March last, several observations, the mean height being 175 miles.

SECTION D.—(Natural History.)

1. The Prince of Canino on tortoises.

2. Hooker (Dr.) on diatomaceæ.

3. Nilsson (Prof.) on certain mammalia.

4. Gray (J. E.) on the structure of the shell of chiton, and on the manufacture of shell cameos.

5. Baird (Dr.) on the crustacea of the genera *nebalia* (Leach) and *chirocephalus* (Prevost).

6. Thompson (W.) remarks on the teredo, xylophaga, limnoria, and chelura, as found together destroying the woodwork of a pier.

7. Peach (Mr.) on additions to the fauna of Cornwall.

2. Dr. Hooker remarked, that though terrestrial plants in the southern hemisphere scarcely entered the antarctic circle, yet that within that parallel, and indeed up to the highest latitude hitherto attained, the ocean abounded in a very peculiar vegetation. The existence of these plants was one of the most singular features of the South Polar Sea; whilst by their decomposition, they were forming deposits of organic remains, in all respects analogous in composition to the infusoria rocks of Ehrenberg, as the Tripoli stone, &c. The diatomaceæ probably swim over the whole ocean, for they were found by the author in the stomachs of various mollusca throughout nearly 100 degrees of latitude, namely, from the north tropic to Victoria Barrier. Within the antarctic circle, however, they are rendered peculiarly conspicuous from their becoming enclosed in the newly-formed ice, and being washed up in myriads by the sea on to the pack and bergs, everywhere staining the white ice and snow of a pale ochreous brown. The collections made by Dr. Hooker were examined by Prof. Ehrenberg, who determined upwards of 150 different species, very many of them new to science, and others identical with what occur in all latitudes and in various formations. Prof. Ehrenberg's views of the animal nature of this order appear unfounded; the arguments adduced for their being plants being considered by most naturalists as almost conclusive, even previous to the remarkable discovery of Mr. Thwaites, whose having seen several species of diatomaceæ to conglomerate in a manner altogether analogous to that pursued by certain other alga, entirely removes all doubts of their vegetable nature.

Dr. Hooker remarks that the universal presence of this invisible vegetation throughout the South Polar Ocean, where every living thing appeared to be animal, is a most important feature; for that these plants probably there maintain that balance between the animal and vegetable kingdom which vegetables of a higher order effect in lower latitudes, not only by affording a protection for the herbivorous animals, but by purifying the atmosphere, which must be vitiated by the swarms of mollusca and crustacea, whales and porpoises, which

people the ocean, the seals and penguins which abound on the ice, and the flocks of birds which are dependent on the air and sea. With regard to the distribution of these antarctic species, it is both wide in space and extended through time; some of the species are found through every degree of latitude between Spitzbergen and Victoria Land; these or others have also occurred in various sedimentary rocks, Tripoli stone, phonolites, and volcanic ashes.

The next point to which the author alluded was the formation of a deposit or stratum of mud, consisting chiefly of the silicious cells of diatomaceæ, 400 miles long and 120 broad, at a depth of between 200 and 400 feet. This bank flanks Victoria Land and Victoria Barrier, in 78° south latitude, and was sounded over by the Antarctic Expedition in two successive seasons. Of its thickness no conjecture could be formed, but that it must be always increasing is evident, the silex of which it is in a great measure composed being indestructible. Its position, in connexion with the Victoria Barrier, is very suggestive; for that glacier, extending as it does in one continuous sweep from the tops of mountains 12,000 feet high, to the sea-level, upon whose surface its outer edge floats, must have a progressive motion. This movement, together with the accumulation of snows in a climate where snow is perennial, will result in the barrier interfering with the diatomaceæ bank, and producing flexures and other disturbances in its form, which a future elevation of the land and change of climate may reveal.

Again, Dr. Hooker made some observations on the connexion between Mount Erebus, an active volcano of 12,400 feet elevation, upon whose submarine flanks the diatomaceæ bank rests, and that bank itself. Ehrenberg's discovery of diatomaceæ in the ashes and pumice of active and extinct volcanos, suggests the question of the source from whence these were derived; that author concludes such species to be of fresh-water origin; but Dr. Hooker's results shew that no inconsiderable number of fresh-water species occur in the Antarctic Ocean; and adds, that we may further assume an occasional communication between the diatomaceæ bank and the bowels of Mount Erebus to be possible, since we are aware that other active volcanos eject materials obtained from those seas to which they are adjacent.

5. Upon an attentive examination of the species of the genus *nebalia*, described by different authors, the writer is induced to reduce them to two: 1st, *nebalia bipes*, Fabr. (sp.) *cancer bipes*, Fabricius and Herbst; *monoculus rostratus*, Montan; *nebalia Herbstii*, Leach; 2d, *nebalia Geoffroyi*, M. Edwards; do. *Strausii*, Risso. With regard to the *chirocephalus* of Prevost, it appears evident that the genus *branchipus*, as originally described by Schæffer, and minutely figured by him in all its details, is quite distinct from the species found in England, and described by authors under that name. The differences are so great and well marked that it is necessary to refer them to the genus *chirocephalus* of Prevost, so beautifully figured at the end of Jurine's work on the *monoculi* of Geneva.

6. This being the last communication brought before the Section, there was not more than sufficient time left to the author to indicate the leading points; but he stated that the whole would soon be published in detail.

SECTION F.—(Statistics.)

Allison (Dr.) on the famine of 1846-7 in the Highlands of Scotland.

The last of a successful and gratifying Congress.

Extras at the Oxford Meeting.—The exhibition-room had very few articles contributed, but some there were of considerable interest. Among these Bain's electric clocks attracted much notice; as did also some beautiful specimens of Cellini plate by Piaget. From the heated rooms, too, a taste of the mineral waters, from the Patent Syphon Vases of Mayo and Co., was most grateful; and strongly re-

commended these elegant utensils, whose well-cooled beverages are so refreshing, to the patronage of those previously unacquainted with this invention. The purity of the material employed in making these vases is a great recommendation; and we may notice, as a proof of the spirit with which useful inventions are carried out in this country, that the contrivance for the little handle alone, by pressure of the finger upon which the waters are poured, cost nearly a thousand pounds before it was perfected. Professor Ehrenberg's lectures on fossil infusoria was another great treat, though of so different a kind; and some beautiful mountain models were also among the attractions of the Association.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

June 7th.—The President, Professor Brande, in the chair. The following papers were read:—1. "On the products of the decomposition of cuminate of ammonia," by Mr. F. Field. When cuminate of ammonia is heated, so as to render it in a state of fusion, it loses two atoms of water, and a new product, "cuminamide," is formed, $C^{20}H^{13}NO^2$. This substance, very analogous to benzamide, is insoluble in cold, but soluble in hot water, from which it crystallises on cooling; it is soluble in alcohol and ether in any proportion. When cuminate of ammonia is further heated, it parts with four atoms of water, and is converted into "cuminitrile," a colourless and highly fragrant oil, of a high refractive power, having a specific gravity 0.765, and boils at 239° centigrade, $C^{20}H^{11}N$. This substance is analogous to benzonitrile. When nitrobenzoate of ammonia is heated for some hours, it parts with two equivalents of water, and a new body, "nitrobenzamide," is produced, $C^{14}\{H^4\}O^2NH^2$. It crystallises from hot water in beautiful yellow needles, and is a true amide, converted by potash into a nitrobenzoate of the alkali and ammonia. It is impossible to form a nitrobenzonitrile by the further action of heat on nitrobenzoate of ammonia, as that salt, by a very long fusion, explodes with much violence, leaving merely a residue of charcoal.

2. "On the hydrates of nitric acid," by Mr. A. Smith. The method of preparing these hydrates, and their purification from nitrous acid, are given in detail; and the author then proceeds to the examination of their composition. The first hydrate, composed of 1 equivalent of dry acid + 1 water, has a specific gravity 1.517 at 60°. It is perfectly limpid and colourless, and boils at 184°. The second hydrate, composed of 1 acid + 2 water, does not exist, such a mixture being resolved by distillation into the first and third. The third hydrate, composed of 1 dry acid + 3 water, has a specific gravity 1.424 at 60°, and boils at 250°.

3. "Contributions to the chemical history of gun-cotton and xylidine," by Mr. J. H. Gladstone. The gun-cotton prepared by the author exploded at 370° without residue. It was insoluble in water, alcohol, ether, or a mixture of ether with 1-10th part alcohol—but dissolved in large quantity in acetic ether, in warm sulphuric acid, giving off nitric oxide and other gases, and was not carbonised even on boiling; it also dissolved in solution of potash, with the aid of heat. Analysis yielded the formula $C^{21}\{H^{19}\}O^2$. The author finds

that if sufficient nitric acid is not present in the preparation of the gun-cotton, that the sulphuric acid exerts a considerable solvent power, which will account for the discrepancies in the statements of the increase of weight on the original cotton. The xylidine exploded at 360°, and left a carbonaceous residue; it was slightly soluble in ether and in alcohol, soluble in ether containing a small quantity of alcohol, or in acetic ether. It dissolved in boiling solution of potash, ammonia, hydrochloric acid, or dilute sulphuric acid, and in cold strong sulphuric acid. These solutions contain nitric acid. It was soluble in acetic and nitric

acids, but precipitated on dilution. Analysis led to the formula $C^4 \begin{Bmatrix} H^7 \\ NO^2 \end{Bmatrix} O^2$. By acting on cotton or gun-cotton with nitric acid of specific gravity 1.45, Mr. Gladstone obtained another compound, which he terms cotton xyloidine, and which has the same formula as xyloidine, but differing in its properties, and convertible into gun-cotton by a mixture of sulphuric and nitric acids in equal parts.

"On the action of nitric acid on cymol," by Mr. H. M. Noad. The object which the author had in view in submitting this carbo-hydrogen to the action of nitric acid, was to study the basic substances which it was expected would be formed by treating nitro-cymol and dinitro-cymol with hydro-sulphuric acid in the manner first pointed out by Zinin. By the action of fuming nitric acid on cymol there was formed, however, a beautifully crystalline acid, the analysis of which leading to the formula $C^4 H^7 NO^2$ rendered it evident, from the manner of its formation, that it must be considered as a substitution product of a non-nitrogenous acid, $C^4 H^7 O^2$, to the production of which the author's attention was immediately directed. After numerous experiments, he succeeded in obtaining this new acid by the long-continued action of weak nitric acid on cymol. Its purification was attended with great difficulties; but sufficient was obtained thoroughly to establish its composition and atomic weight. The baryta, lime, silver, and copper salts were analysed; a beautiful ether was obtained; and by distillation with caustic baryta, the acid was converted into toluol, $C^4 H^8$, from which, by the action of nitric acid, nitrotoluol $C^4 \begin{Bmatrix} NO^2 \\ H^7 \end{Bmatrix}$ and dinitrotoluol $C^4 \begin{Bmatrix} H^6 \\ 2NO^2 \end{Bmatrix}$ were produced, and the former was subsequently converted into toluidine, $C^4 H^9 N$. The method of preparing and purifying nitrotoluidic acid is described; its analysis, with that of several of its salts, is given, all of which establish the composition of the new body, and shew that it may be represented by the formula $HO, C^4 \begin{Bmatrix} H^8 \\ NO^2 \end{Bmatrix} O^2$. The ethyl and methyl compounds of nitrotoluidic acid, both crystalline, were obtained and analysed; and an additional proof of the identity of cymol with camphogene was furnished, by producing from the latter substance, by the action of fuming nitric acid, the same nitrobenzoic acid, that was obtained from cymol.

The author concludes his paper with a table, giving a general view of the groups of bodies deriving from various carbo-hydrogens, and pointing out the gaps which still remain to be filled up. By the present investigation, the two most important members of the toluoyl series are supplied, and experiments are now in progress, by which it is hoped that several members in another group will be developed.

FINE ARTS.

WESTMINSTER HALL.

IN No. 21. Messrs. J. and G. Foggo have designed on a smaller scale than usual with them, and produced a stirring scene of "King John and the Barons before the altar of St. Edmundsbury." The characters are very numerous and very various, and the principal action striking. No. 22, by the same, is an enlarged copy.

No. 23. "Lamentation," W. E. T. Dobson; and No. 24. "Boadicea," by the same, do not boast of originality in idea or much merit in execution; and we may pass without farther comment.

No. 29. "Allegorical Portrait of her Majesty," by Joseph Severn; which can only be described as a fresco of royal pictorial flattery, in which Victoria is almost punningly substituted for Victoria, or vice versa; and the performance is not such as we had a right to expect from the acknowledged ability of the artist.

No. 30. "Queen Elizabeth reviewing her Troops

at Tilbury." T. M. Joy.—Has many good points. The centre is spiritedly filled by the Amazonian Queen on a gallant charger, no less carefully groomed and caparisoned than her Majesty is dressed and adorned for command. The best parts are the armed Earls of Leicester and Ormond; and from the page who holds the steed, to the numerous grouping on the right, there is sufficient talent to call for much praise.

No. 32. "The Night-Surprise of Cardiff Castle." Frank Howard.—The Welsh under Ivor Bach break in and compel the Earl of Gloucester to sign a treaty for the conservation of their laws. The Earl is well drawn and disposed; but we cannot say much for his lady, or for her ladies. The fighting and signing ought not to be going on at the same moment. The harper wants relief.

No. 33. "Theseus, &c." H. H. White.—High up, and not particularly noticeable.

No. 35. "The Battle of Agincourt." Eyre Crowe.—A rather confused *mêlée*, and arms and limbs strained, occasionally without due attention to anatomical drawing.

No. 36. "Charity of the Queen of Henry I." J. G. Waller.—Aloft on the walls, and picturing a benevolent scene more worthy of the artist's imagination than any supposable reality.

No. 37. "Chaucer at the Court of Edward III." Samuel West.—Chaucer is rather too much in a dancing attitude; but there is a good deal of vigour and colour in the principal parts. The aim is to exhibit literature honoured at court; but that was in the time of Henry the First.

No. 38. "Oliver Cromwell refusing the Crown." N. J. Crowley.—Oliver is theatrical, and his daughters and their friends blessed with large eyes to see the sight. The piece is unfinished, and therefore hardly fair for criticism; and the unintelligible expression, as for example in the two figures on the left, which might be brought into some purpose, throw a blight over the whole design.

No. 39. "Henry V. re-establishing Sir W. Gascoigne as Lord Chief Justice." H. L. Smith.—His Majesty has the sword-blade grasped in his hand, which is neither safe nor royal.

No. 40. "An Unfinished Allegory." W. Cave Thomas.—We regret to see any other unfinished painting; for it is impossible to speak of what they might be from what they are. The present seems to consist of academic studies.

No. 41. "The Infancy of Shakspeare." J. W. Walton.—Not like the Hercules of Reynolds: it wants beauty and intellect, though some of the forms are well done.

No. 42. "Scenes from Paradise Lost." Henry O'Neil.—Shews an indifferent Adam and Eve.

No. 43. G. Stubbs. "Buccaneers attacking a Spanish Ship;" and looks rather clever aloft on the walls.

No. 45. The "Burial of Sir John Moore," Marshal Claxton, is an affecting representation of a sad and solemn ceremony, treated with much feeling, and painted in those sombre tints which well define the darkening hour and the fate of the heroic dead. The heads around are varied and expressive, and the attitudes natural.

No. 47. "The Duke of Marlborough after the Battle of Blenheim," J. G. Middleton, does not equal the portraiture talent of the artist, nor treat the subject with the historical truth found in the painting of the same now to be seen (for a consideration!) in Blenheim Palace. The Duke on horseback is a fair equestrian figure in the costume of the times, which is neither picturesque nor becoming; but his aide-de-camp wants spirit; and we cannot compliment the drawing of the horses, nor the general tone of colour in the material objects, though not destitute of merit in other parts, and not out of keeping as a whole.

No. 48. "Battle of La Hogue," J. C. Schetky, has much of the truth of naval battle in its action from one side of the canvass to the other. The artist's thorough knowledge of shipping is conspicuous, and the numerous incidents passing on a

ruffled sea tell the tale (as described in the despatches of the time) with all the precision and intelligence which could be required of the art.

No. 49. "Young Talbot rescues his Father." W. Gail.—May be passed over as a stand-up fight.

No. 50. "Destruction of Toulon." W. A. Knell.—Is illuminated by an admirably painted explosion, which throws the sides of ships and sails, in properly opposite positions, into a very effective gloom and shadow. It is a striking composition, and of much promise.

No. 51 is a large landscape, E. J. Nieman, and appears to embody many pleasing and picturesque features in the classic style. 52, E. Holmes, is a small landscape, with Tobias and the Angels. 53, E. Gill, "A Storm," for which little can be said; and 54, "Marine Architecture," John Ward, an interesting exhibition of various classes of vessels, and worthy a place in any building-yard or naval arsenal.

LOUGH'S STATUE OF PRINCE ALBERT,

So highly estimated in the *Literary Gazette*, was on Monday inaugurated on its pedestal in the vestibule of Lloyd's, Royal Exchange. On removing the covering our panegyric was re-echoed by a general burst of admiration; and Mr. T. Baring addressed the assembly on the beauty and fitness of this memorial to the Prince, on his having laid the foundation-stone of the building. He also paid a tribute of approbation to Mr. Chapman, the deputy-chairman of the Committee, through whose instrumentality the object of the subscribers had been so admirably fulfilled, and this splendid work of art placed in their rooms. Three hearty cheers were given for it; and other three, so entirely merited, for the sculptor, who was present, to taste the public triumph due to his lofty genius, though he has no academic distinctions attached to his name. We need not repeat here we think the disgrace of this fact rests; certainly not on the individual, whose works are immortal, and of whose present production (not belonging to the spiritual and creative, like his Hamlet, Lady Macbeth, Milo, and many others) the *Times* justly observes, that "as a work of art in the class to which it belongs it appears faultless. The easy poise and dignity of the figure, and the natural expression of the countenance—perfectly true, yet elevated in character—exhibit his Royal Highness in a style consistent with his station, and is admirably suited to the position in which it is placed. The artist has also succeeded greatly, by his skilful management of the drapery, in giving simplicity to the robe of state, and in rendering that which usually looks so cumbersome, both becoming and graceful."

THE STATUE OF HER MAJESTY, BY GIBSON, AND THE NEW CROWN-PIECE, BY WYON.

THESE two novel works of art have been much praised by periodical critics, but they have not been fairly and properly reviewed, as regards their historical and national import. Let us briefly notice them, with reference to their truthfulness, and to the effects they are calculated to produce on the minds of the rising generation of artists, and of future historians and critics. If the statue of Queen Victoria were exhibited in any museum or gallery in Europe, without an inscription or explanation, would any spectator fancy it to be a portrait of the present amiable sovereign of England? Was her Majesty ever seen, or is she likely to be seen, clothed in such a mantle, with such sandals on her feet, such a diadem upon her head, or such a wreath and scroll in her hands? If not, what can justify the artist who represents such things in marble as appendages to the statue of a female, and affixes the name "VICTORIA REGINA" to the mass? If the biographer or historian were to describe our most gracious Queen as appearing at court, in the senate, or on horseback, in such costume, his account would not be tolerated: it would be at once set down as a mere caricature, and the writer reprobated and condemned

as faithless and false, and as indicating an imaginary rather than a real personage. We know that the Greeks, in their famed statues, busts, and bas-reliefs, copied, and rendered permanent, the portraits of their emperors, senators, and heroes, not merely in their personal features, but in their costume, and all other accessories. They did not clothe an Alexander or a Pericles in the dress of the Egyptians, but in that of the age and country in which they lived. The Roman artists did the same; whence the best works of both nations are justly regarded as authorities, and as historical data for description and criticism. We are also in the habit of referring to the sculptures, paintings, medals, and coins of the middle ages, as guides and evidences for costume, implements, weapons, and other personal details: but if artists are tolerated and encouraged to produce either in statues, pictures, or otherwise, delineations of the illustrious and eminent characters of Great Britain in the nineteenth century, in the dress and with the accessories of Egyptians, Greeks, or Romans, or even of our own mediæval ancestors, we shall lose all identity and authenticity of time place and person. The late Mr. West set a good example in his historical pictures, as Chantrey did in sculpture, in the earnest and laudable endeavour to make art both historical and biographical; to represent the hero, the statesman, the philosopher, or the poet, in the dress which truly belonged to him; which served to mark the epoch in which he lived; and to distinguish him at once from a person of a distant age or remote climate. These sentiments were often reiterated by the eminent artists here named to the writer of this article; and are so indelibly impressed upon his mind, that they can never be effaced; nor can any fascination of art reconcile him to a work that is opposed to such principles. These remarks are not made with any desire to depreciate Mr. Gibson's fine, and, as it may be called, classical statue, as a work of high art, of great beauty, of eminent talent; but it is necessary to enter an unqualified protest against its being regarded as a portrait of the present illustrious, exemplary, and estimable monarch of Great Britain.

THE CROWN-PIECE, by WILLIAM WYON, R.A., is a beautiful specimen of coin-engraving; and, as a work of art, is creditable to the artist and the country; but it is much to be regretted that it should be disgraced by a practice that would be "more honoured in the breach than the observance,"—the inscriptions in the old, abbreviated Latin. Have we not a language of our own? Is not that language copious, precise, and expressive,—or are we ashamed of it? Is not an English coin, as well as an English act of parliament, intended to be used by, and made purposely for, the English people? The Latin language is not the vernacular idiom of the country; why, therefore, should it be employed in the laws, and on the coins of the realm, which ought to be clearly understood and valued by every individual, whether rich or poor, learned or illiterate? But custom, and commonplace prejudice, govern or hoodwink too many even of the thinking portion of society. "The diffusion of knowledge" has done much towards dispelling these clouds, and accelerating the general progress of intellect. Let us hope that it will soon correct the errors and absurdities here complained of. As Crabbe has properly said: "The dead languages ought to be buried."

J. BRITTON.*

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, July 20, 1847.

You have witnessed the realisation, in every point, of our previous respecting the *procès Cubières*.

* On a few points of little consequence we differ in a shade from our experienced correspondent; but, agreeing entirely with him in main principles, we have much satisfaction in giving his enlightened views to the public.

Truth had just been elicited when we were in the act of writing on Tuesday last. Twenty-four hours later all was at an end. The obstinacy of the culprits was overcome; they could no longer persist in denying the evidence, and their condemnation was pronounced by the public before being read by the peerage. The manner in which punishment was awarded proves, in spite of the formal prescriptions of the law, how much distinction is still made between the man who corrupts and the man who suffers himself to be corrupted. M. Teste is sentenced to three years' imprisonment, to civil degradation, and to a fine of 188,000*fr.*; MM. Cubières and Parmentier to degradation and a fine of 10,000*fr.*, without imprisonment. In thus modifying on its own absolute authority the legal penalties, the Chamber of Peers has indicated in what sense the law should be revised. Is it not, in truth, perfectly manifest that the law does not accord with our internal feeling and conscientious scruples? and further, is it not evident that in assimilating in every point the corruptor with the corrupted, you will impede, nine times out of ten, the discovery of corruption? Such a contract, essentially secret, has no chance of being brought to light, save by the revelations of one of the parties concerned: it is therefore clear, that if you have them both equally interested in its remaining concealed in mystery, never, or almost never, will you be enabled to establish the existence of this compact, the proscription of which you have sought. In this respect the sentence of the Court of Peers has been sanctioned by public good-sense; but people feel alarm on seeing what omnipotence is assumed by them in thus giving judgment against the formal text of the law; and I should not be astonished if the *procès Cubières* should lead people to demand that the jurisdiction of the peerage in criminal matters should be exactly determined and limited. However, it is marvellous to behold the speedy oblivion into which all this affair has fallen from the moment it ceased to awaken interest by its daily catastrophes. It is clear that it acted upon public curiosity just as a *feuilleton* cleverly interrupted in the most interesting part; and whose dénouement, difficult to foresee, possesses all the charms of an enigma. The solution once known, nobody devotes a thought to it.

Apocryphos of novels and of their attraction, it is well to mention here a fact which is, in my opinion, a most singular literary symptom. On the very night when M. Teste, overwhelmed by the unexpected evidence which emerged on every side against him, despaired at last of concealing the truth from his judges, an hour after the attempt at suicide, and when he had barely received the first attentions which his wound required, he was writing to the *Grand Référendaire* of the Chamber of Peers, to ask him for—a thousand to one you will never guess—to ask him for a couple of novels, the "Mosaistes" of George Sand, and the "Monte Cristo" of Dumas; this may look like a fable, but nothing can be more authentic. I heard the fact from a Deputy who read the note, and who saw Madame la Duchesse Decazes seek amongst her books for one of the two works destined to while away the leisure hours of the interesting prisoner.

The infatuation created by the "Histoire des Girondins" is beginning to subside; and healthy criticism resumes her sway with the more severity that, during nearly three months, she was interdicted from exercising it. She draws in relief the palpable contradictions, the material errors of this truly extempore written book, which is neither a poem, nor a novel, nor a history, but an eloquent paraphrase of all revolutionary anecdotes.

Just to quote a few of them: M. de Lamartine represents as dying, on a revolutionary scaffold, Target, one of the advocates of Louis XVI., who was a member of the *Cour de Cassation*, when, in 1807, he peaceably departed this life in his bed. He places, in 1741, next to Marie Thérèse, haranguing the Hungarians, Marie Antoinette, who was not born till 1755, fourteen years later. He

makes an adventurer of M. de Batz, the worthy descendant of that valiant Baron de Batz whom Henry IV. called familiarly "*Mon Pauleux*," after having seen him valiantly mowing the enemy on the battle-field of Eause. He transforms the faithful Clery (the *valet de chambre* of Louis XVI., and the author of very interesting memoirs) into a revolutionary spirit, who stood in need of being converted to devotedness by the spectacle of his master's misfortunes. At Valmy, he confounds the king of Prussia with his son. He gives, in 1792, one million of inhabitants to Paris, which, according to all statistics, then only contained 516,000 souls. When Bailly and Lafayette marched together to the Champ de Mars, with the *drapeau rouge*, to quell an insurrection, he states, that one single volley brought five or six hundred men to the ground; whilst the *procès verbal* of the Commune establishes only twelve deaths. He falls into many mistakes regarding Madame Roland (whose admirable autobiography, read with attention, would have preserved him from all errors) as to her residences, even as to her face, which he loves to depict as if he had been personally acquainted with her. In the Legislative Assembly he makes Couthon draw his stoical inspirations from the eyes of Robespierre, next to whom he places him, although Robespierre never held a seat, never could have held a seat, in the Legislative Assembly, since he had been a member of the Constituante. When Thomas Paine is in question, he represents him as being received in France by Louis XVI., eleven years before the time when that foreigner first came there; he adds, that he came as an envoy from revolted America, which is false; that he received from Louis XVI. the 6,000,000*fr.* subsidy granted by that prince to the Americans, which is another untruth, contradicted by the official letters of many American statesmen. And lastly, when Paine writes the deplorable letter in which he accuses Louis XVI., already on the steps of the scaffold, of being addicted to drunkenness, M. de Lamartine exclaims: "Tis thus that the voice of America, enfranchised by Louis XVI., resounded in the prison of Louis XVI. An American, a citizen, a sage, demanded, if not the head, at least the diaphragm of the king who had shielded under French bayonets the cradle of his country's liberty." Now an American, perfectly well versed in the affairs of his country, sends this reply to M. de Lamartine, in the *London and Paris Observer*. 1. That Paine was not an American, but an Englishman by birth; 2. That he was not a sage, but a man addicted to wine, and who shortened his life by his debauchery; 3. That the voice of Thomas Paine was not the voice of America, which appears to be manifestly the truth, for America openly repudiated the excesses of the French Revolution, and conceived so great an aversion, in particular, for Thomas Paine, that, on his death, admittance was refused to his body in the Cemetery of Friends; and that those citizens who bore his name and surname appealed for an authorisation to have at least the surname changed, from the dread of being confounded with such an homonyme. And even when the Girondins themselves are in question, he begins by representing them in their prison, as sages above all fear, as stoical philosophers "whose every word is a hymn to constancy and a defiance to death;" and, he adds (these are his own words), "that they spoke of the dangers of the country as men who had no more account to take of time." But some few pages further on, contradicting himself, he confesses that "the Girondins did not resume their dignified bearing before their judges, till they had lost all hope; the dread of compromising their remaining chance of life," he continues, "sealed their lips. The care bestowed on lengthening their days was injurious to their mission." To a certainty a man can scarcely defend himself easily against the reproach of having written history with levity, when, within a small number of pages, criticism can mark so many errors and inconsistencies.

While criticism is concluding her labours, and before a complete oblivion has enveloped the brilliant but ephemeral reputation attached to a book without any serious weight, the theatres are turning to account the *rogue* he has given to the revolutionary epoch. The Gymnase opened the fire by representing four or five days ago a three-act piece, in which Charlotte Corday, the "angel of murder," as she is called by M. de Lamartine, is the doubly unfortunate heroine. For although she was presented to us that night under the amiable features of Madame Rose Chéri, she met with a reception scarcely more favourable than that given to the real Charlotte, after she had stabbed Marat, by the neighbours attracted to the theatre of the crime. It must be admitted that an unlucky thought was here conceived to produce this heroic act in the shape of small scenes and small flimsy *complets*, to give Charlotte Corday, as principal incentive in her devotion, the desire to revenge her guillotined lover, —in fact, to reduce within the meagre proportions of the *vaudeville*, a subject fit for an epic poem. This profanation was quickly chastised, and all the talent of Madame Rose Chéri cannot render endurable this piece of historical and dramatic nonsense.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

SHAKSPEREANA.

THE noble effort made by the Archæological Association during its Congress at Warwick, so productive of results of great antiquarian interest and national value, redounds as much to the honour of their proceedings as, perhaps, all the rest put together. For Shakspeare, to the whole world akin, and his memory cherished by every people from the Volga to the Ganges, from the Thames to the Mississippi, from the Glommen to the Niger, from the Rhine to the Maranon, is threatened with a Vandal desecration in the land of his birth, and on the very spot of his nativity. The home in which he lived is advertised for sale! to be pulled down and carted away, as if it were the common rubbish of the world, and not precious in every atom—as instinct with the soul of the immortal being breathed within its walls, and hallowing it for ever.

When we know that the slightest authentic relic of Shakspeare is prized above all price, is it not wonderful that this temple of his life should be endangered even for an instant, and that the country should not rise as with one heart to rescue it from spoliation, and say, "This is Ours, the monument of a genius unspeakable in its glory,—it shall not perish; the visible all that remains of a man who has done more for mankind than any other created—not a vestige of it shall be suffered to pass away."

Well has the Archæological Association deserved for adopting this tone and directing its energy to this cause. Subscription, purchase! why, the poorest coin ever issued from a mint, collected from the tithe of his fellow-creatures whom he has fascinated and benefited, would buy the fee simple of the county in which is the lowly, mouldering residence of the Bard of Avon. His mere signature* is eagerly contended for, and large sums given to secure it; and yet we hear of scruples about the cost of this last and most important object of all that is left of his earthly presence, for the weak reason that it might enrich some fortunate possessor far beyond the trade-worth of old wood and stones. This is chandlerly folly and miserable grudging: who found the Pitt or the Pigot diamonds, theirs be the rightful profit—the splendour of the gems is perpetuated for humankind.

Two hundred years after the decease of Shakspeare—April 23, 1816—an engraving of the Poet, from his bust in Stratford Church, was published in connexion with that anniversary; and we ought here to note the public obligations to the veteran

antiquary, Mr. John Britton, for every matter relating to the purified restoration of this bust,* and the revival of a true feeling for the memory of Shakspeare, which had somewhat slumbered again since the Jubilee of Garrick. Mr. H. Neale wrote some good lines on the subject, beginning—

"His was the master-spirit,—at his spells
The heart gave up its secrets: like the mount
Of Horeb, smitten by the Prophet's rod,
Its hidden springs gushed forth."

On the 30th of April, 1836, the *Literary Gazette* gave an account of the celebration of Shakspeare's birthday on the preceding 23d, under the presidency of Dr. Conolly; when the duty of "sacred awe and enthusiastic care" of every memorial that could be traced to him was enforced with powerful effect.

Since then, the establishment of the Shakspeare Society, its publications, and the labours of Mr. J. Payne Collier (and we may also add Mr. Charles Knight), have contributed to keep alive and warm that general sympathy the fruit of which we trust now to witness in the preservation of his time-honoured dwelling-place.†

CHURCH-BUILDING.

THE Church of St. Stephen, founded by Miss Coutts, in Rochester Row, Westminster, and of which the foundation-stone was laid on Tuesday morning, is designed in the style of architecture prevalent in the fourteenth century, and called the Decorated. It will consist of a nave 82 feet long by 21 feet wide, aisles 82 feet by 13 feet, chancel 47 feet by 21 feet, and a massive tower and spire at the east end of the north aisle; the base of the tower is 23 feet square, and the entire height 200 feet. The materials to be used are Sneaton rag-stone for the walls, and Anstone stone for the various dressings and quoins (being similar to those in the new Houses of Parliament). The roofs are to be constructed of British oak, and covered with lead; and the open seating throughout, together with the chancel, stalls, and screens, formed of Riga waincot. The church will be capable of holding about one thousand persons. The tower is to contain a peal of bells. The schools now erecting are constructed with the same materials, and are capable of holding 230 boys and 170 girls. The master's and mistress's house is close adjoining; and all these buildings are designed in a suitable style to the church. The works are executed by Messrs. Rigby, of Westminster, under the direction of Mr. B. Ferrey, the architect.

The following is the inscription engraved on the trowel:

To
MISS ANGELA GEORGINA BURDETT COUTTS,
the Founder
of the Church of St. Stephen, Westminster,
this Trowel
is presented as a token of respect and gratitude by
the Inhabitants of the District,
July 20th, 1847.

"Mercy and Truth to them that devise good."

Prov. xiv. 22.

LAUS DEO.

CHARTER-HOUSE INFIRMARY: THE AUXILIARY SOCIETY.

It is an annual gratification to us to notice the anniversary of this association of the humbler classes, incited by gratitude to assemble together, express their feelings towards their benefactors, and subscribe their offerings in support of the parent establishment, from which they have received the inestimable benefits of relief from pain, and restoration to health and strength. We know of no meeting so honourable to the classes to which we have referred; for it is a very noble exhibition

* Coated with white paint by Malone in 1793;—
Whose meddling seal his barbarous taste displays,
And daubs his tombstone, as he marred his plays.

† There was a proposal for restoring the chancel in which the monumental "effigies" stand; but we know not the issue, nor what has become of it.—Ed. L. G.

of the action and reaction of Charity, one of the finest principles which can adorn and bless human nature. On this occasion nearly 200 working men sat down to a plain substantial repast; the chair being taken and ably filled by Mr. Thomas Howell, and the upper bench occupied with guests friendly to the cause. After dinner the usual public toasts were drunk, and several excellent speeches delivered, by members of the Auxiliary Fund, Mr. Martin, Mr. Rice, Mr. Couchman, and others. Truth and enthusiasm are always eloquent; and this was delightfully demonstrated when prosperity to the Infirmary, and the healths of the treasurer Alderman Copeland, the chaplain Mr. G. Taylor, the physician Dr. Furnival, and the honorary surgeon and founder Mr. F. Salmon, were toasted. The cheering and the beaming countenances which attended these, and especially the last of them, must have been a heartfelt enjoyment to those to whom the tributes were paid; but no one could witness them without partaking largely in that pleasure. It was enhanced by the presence in the gallery of numerous well-clad wives and children of individuals restored to life and them; and from the combination of all together, we may truly say it was a scene to gladden the philanthropist, and the moralist too, without one grain of alloy to diminish the general interest and wholesome value of the treat.

BIOGRAPHY.

SIR DAVID POLLOCK.

It is with no common feelings of grief that we give to our page the record of the death, in May last, of the late Chief-justice of Bombay; than whom a man more estimable in every relation of life, never adorned society. The loss of a friend of half a century is a sad event, a pregnant warning. We partook of the festive entertainment which commemorated his call to the bar in the Middle Temple in 1803, when he was twenty-three years of age, being born in London in 1780, and having received the final portion of his education at the university of Edinburgh. We believe his brother the Lord Chief Baron, and the writer of this, are the only individuals living who enjoyed that festive scene; for we cannot remember exactly whether the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, an intimate of that youthful period, was of the party or not. But however that may have been, it is not unworthy of remark, that of a small band of youths, about ten in number, who had formed a little club for literary and intellectual cultivation, meeting weekly, reading papers consecutively brought forward, and discussing their contents, the majority have risen to the highest eminence in their respective pursuits, and nearly all (not too early removed by death) to some degree of public distinction. The names of Wyldes (brothers), Pollocks (brothers), Bramahs (brothers), will be recognised in this list; and the lesson we would point from it to young men entering upon the world is, See to what the active training of mind and perseverance in the acquisition of learning and useful knowledge may lead, from walks of life independent of lofty birth and connexion, distinct from high patronage, and only seeking to rise by merit, and ardent toil for the attainment of superior intelligence and ability.

Sir David Pollock chose the Home Circuit, and was in due season considered to be what he was, a sound and judicious lawyer. He advanced in practice, became a Queen's counsel, and had considerable parliamentary business, but before that class of pleading had reached the extravagant remuneration of later years. He was elected recorder of Maidstone, Tenderden, and Dymchurch, was a bencher of the Temple, and appointed a commissioner of the Insolvents Court, which offices he held till only twelve months ago, when nominated to the Chief-justiceship of Bombay. Here his administration of justice and personal virtues had already procured for him the utmost public approbation and the warmest individual

* The name of Shakspeare (John, the father) occurs 150 times in the town-records of Stratford, and is spelt in 14 different ways, 4 times as the foregoing, 14 times Shakspeare, 18 times Shaxpere, 68 times Shaxspeare, and once Shakspeare.

attachment. As he had been at home beloved by those who knew him best, his relatives and friends, and held in no ordinary esteem by all who came within the sphere of his action, so had even the brief space of his sojourn in India recommended him to similar sentiments in regard to his unblemished official conduct and honourable private character. He was kind-hearted, candid, and liberal: good in himself, and charitable towards others. In the philanthropy and benevolence of manhood he took a prominent interest, and was conspicuous in the craft for his acquirements and station, and zeal and generosity in promoting every humane object proposed by the general body, or the lodges of which he was a member or master.

None can be more competent than we are to testify to the even and direct course of his life, to his excellent qualities, the undeviating kindness of his disposition, his firm integrity, and the soundness of his understanding, all so happily blended as to typify that rare phenomenon, the perfect combination of innocence and wisdom. Such was David Pollock, and such the irremediable loss sustained by his brethren, his children, his friends, and the world. In him one truly of the noblest works of God has been taken from us.*

H. EVANS LLOYD, ESQ.

In H. E. Lloyd we have lost another old friend, and one of the most assiduous labourers in the field of literature. He died suddenly, at the age of 76, being seized with a fit at the house of a friend whom he was visiting at Blackheath. Mr. Lloyd was for many years in the Post-office; and eminently useful from his extensive knowledge of languages and complete mastery of the German, which might indeed be considered his native language. His translations of many volumes, and long-continued intercourse with the principal scholars and authors of the continent, made him the perpetual recipient and depository of vast funds of information, and foreign literature; and we should imagine that his collected works and publications would almost make a useful and valuable library. He was a contributor to the *Literary Gazette* from its commencement to its last No.; the notice of the demolition of the Temple of the Sun at Baalbec was written by him. We expect to be able to lay a memoir of his life before our readers: meanwhile we can truly say he was one of the worthiest of men in all its relations.

MUSIC.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

No public entertainment is better supported in London than this society; and it behoves it, therefore, to do justice to the great works it brings before its crowded audiences. It is an amateur society, and although many of the members have to gain their living by other than musical employments, yet they have placed themselves in such a responsible situation that nothing should deter them from discharging their obligation to the public. The celebrated Dr. Spohr was engaged by them to get up his oratorio "The Fall of Babylon." This was a wise measure, and they should have grasped with eagerness the invaluable services of such a man, who, take him all in all, as a conductor has not a superior; and the society having much to learn, should have been sensible of the benefits he could render it by teaching how to give masterly expression to sublime works. The public heard "The Fall of Babylon" on the 9th instant indifferently performed; notwithstanding this, we are informed, the society did not pay the composer the common respect of giving the oratorio a rehearsal before its second performance, which took place on the 10th. We will not on this account do them any injustice, but will award them their due by

stating that the music was very nicely executed on the second occasion; which makes us the more regret that the will for well doing does not go hand in hand with the capability of this body. Dr. Spohr is the first oratorio composer of the present day. It is the fashion to place Dr. Mendelssohn before him in this respect, but we are of a contrary opinion. In form, melody, and instrumentation, Spohr, in our judgment, surpasses Mendelssohn, as much as Mozart surpasses Beethoven in form, melody, continuity, and the working out of ideas. The only drawback to Spohr's music is that the harmony is too much of one species of chromatic colouring; yet no composer has created so much beauty in this school of modulation. Dr. Rinck comes very near him, but for tenderness and fluency Spohr is unapproached. Neither he nor Mendelssohn are great in fugue choruses; in which Rinck is preferable to them, whilst Handel stands far before every other composer in this noble school of writing; for boldness and strong outline, neither a continuous use of chromatic modulation in each part or voice of the harmony, nor a redundancy of arpeggio inventions in the accompaniments of a composition, are their proper characteristics. Thus, then, the two great masters of our time, will, in the lapse of years, be said to be less happy in their conceptions of grandeur than of pathos and refined inspirations. We have not space to particularise every piece in "The Fall of Babylon," but the following most riveted our attention and admiration. 1. The overture. 2. Solo, "Haughty Babylon." 3. Chorus, "Proud monarch arise." 4. Song, "Dear child of bondage." 5. Duet, "Judah still the chosen nation." 6. Chorus, "Raise aloft the Persian banner." 7. Chorus, "Lord, before thy footstep bending." 8. Song, "No longer shall Judea's children wander." 9. Song, "O what is man." 10. Song, "Boundless visions." Nos. 4, 7, 8, and 9 are our favourite melodies, and are enriched with the most lovely harmonies, such as would have enchanted Mozart himself. Striking touches of truth and sublimity are rendered on these words, "Babylon shall fall," "Hallelujah," "And while with festive mirth," "Long as Euphrates rolls" (the instrumentation here is splendid), and "Vengeance, thy arm was here." The instrumentation to the song "Boundless visions" is exquisite, especially the responsive character kept up between the violin and violoncello. The same may be said of the duet "Judah still the chosen nation," wherein the flute and violin hold sweet communion together. Lastly, our comparison of Spohr and Mendelssohn is not done to detract from the merits of the latter great master, whom we hold in the highest reverence, but simply to place them in that position in which we believe most conscientiously posterity will hold them when the critics of the passing day are no more.

THE DRAMA.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—The debut of Taglioni on Saturday, and the famous *Pas de quatre*, with Rosati in the place of Lucille Grahn, gave a great treat to the enthusiasts in the dancing department; and the various styles of the *dansettes* displayed such flexible powers and graces of the art, that we presume nothing more could be wished in this class of theatrical exhibition. *Les Elements* add almost excess to the waist-fall entertainment; and the applause was proportionate to the superabundance. On Thursday *I Masnadieri*, composed expressly for this theatre, and conducted by the Maestro, Verdi, was performed for the first time, in obedience to her Majesty's expressed command. The plot is taken from Schiller's *Robbers*, and the story is given nearly the same, some of the songs being paralleled in the Italian. The overture, if such it can be called, consists chiefly of a very elegant solo for the violoncello, most beautifully played by Pianti, and is so far quite original; and we see no reason why the prelude to an opera should not be given as a solo to an

instrument so very capable of expression. The general character of the opera is dependent upon the effects of the orchestra and chorus, there being no very prominent solos or concerted pieces; the cavatina "Carlo vive," most charmingly sung by Lind, and rendered very effective by the original and graceful ornaments she added, was very successful, and encored with enthusiasm; the duet "Ma un'iri di pace," is another very pleasing composition, and was also encored. The choruses have a very turbulent and rapid character, which at first hearing is not so agreeable; perhaps when more perfectly sung they will be better understood and more pleasing. The music throughout is dependent upon the brass instruments much more than the violins and wood instruments; this imparts a degree of violence and noise, which may be considered suitable to the German story, but it deprives the work of much beauty and sweetness. The cast was most effective—Lind, Lablache, Coletti, Gardoni, Corelli. The scenery and appointments are really splendid, and the opera has been vigorously studied, so that for a first representation it was given in an unusually perfect manner. It is remarkable that there is neither second soprano nor contralto employed, and no chorus of female voices in this opera. The reception of Verdi by the band and the audience was most complimentary; he was three times called for on the stage, and the success of this new work is complete. So late as Thursday we can particularise no more.

Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden.—*Le Nozze di Figaro* on Thursday was splendidly cast. Griati and Tamburini in their famed parts of *Susannah* and the *Count*, and Alboni (not yet panegyricised as she deserves, though ever rising in public estimation) in *Cherubino*, displaying her charming vocal powers, though the music was transposed to a lower key to suit them. Steffanoni was sweet and correct in the Persian school, and only required to put a little more force into her exertions; and Marini, in *Figaro*, having got over a nervous fit which impaired his earlier efforts, became all that could be wished towards the close. *Rovero's Bartolo* was excellent; and a new and pretty divertissement, *La Rosiera*, exhibiting *Fuoco* for the first time this season, completed an entertainment of a very high order of operatic attraction.

Haymarket.—On Wednesday evening, *Go and Come* were exhibited for Buckstone's benefit; for he took his farewell of this theatre, and a son of John Reeve made his debut. Both met with liberal marks of popular admiration. Buckstone, it is stated, goes to the Lyceum, which is to be opened under the management of Madame Vestris and Mr. C. Mathews.

Drury Lane is said to be secured by M. Jullien, but to have a portion of the season set apart for the regular drama; and Covent Garden may possibly have an early turn before the Opera period arrives. There is, however, little absolutely settled in the dramatic perspective.

St. James's.—On the benefit-night of the enterprising lessee, Rachel appeared for the first time in comedy; for which, we may say, the sententiousness and stateliness of her tragic practice has not prepared her. There were parts very effective, but in their nature and character they were rather within the domain of Melpomene than her sister Thalia.

VARIETIES.

Nash's Galleries, in Regent Street, which we see advertised by Messrs. Rushworth and Jarvis, seem to us to possess rare capabilities for accommodating the literary and scientific world. What Exeter Hall is for concerts, religious and philanthropic meetings, &c., these extensive premises might advantageously be made for permanent associations in want of a local habitation; and also for public meetings, exhibitions, and other purposes connected with intellectual improvement. In Mr. Nash's time the long gallery was very commodious and handsome; and in later years the public are well

*An admirable bust of Dr. David was executed just before he left England, by a young sculptor, Mr. Joseph Durham, of whose great talent we have had occasion to speak in our notice of works of art.—*Edin. M. G.*

aware of the interesting sights which have so frequently invited attention to the spacious rooms, where splendid collections of art, models, *verru*, and luxuries (alas, changing hands), were shown. Let us hope they are destined to higher and more lasting uses.

Chiswick Gardens.—The last rose of summer, i. e. the last show of the season, took place here on Saturday; and notwithstanding the unpromising weather in the morning, was pretty well attended when it cleared up in the afternoon. The fruits and flowers were in high perfection.

The Builders' Benevolent Institution, the proposed formation of which we noticed with warm approval in a late *Literary Gazette* (No. 1584), has, we rejoice to see, taken an initiative and firm step in advance towards its proposed end. A numerous meeting of the supporters of the charity took place at Freemasons' Hall on Monday, Mr. Hugh Biers, the president of the Master Carpenters' Society, in the chair. He entered into a statement of much general interest, and explained the condition of builders and those whom they employed, amounting to no fewer than 30,000 in and around London, for whom no provision existed (as in most other professions and trades) when overtaken by misfortune or old age, or disabled by casualties so frequent in this dangerous occupation. Mr. Biers then stated the nature of the plan of Builders' benefit and relief Funds, to meet these contingencies, to succour the declining years of those who had failed in securing wherewithal to support themselves, and to administer to the wants and sufferings of distressed or injured workmen. Lord R. Grosvenor, and other members of parliament and wealthy individuals, who had been enlisted in the good cause, expressed their entire approbation of the design; and a liberal subscription in aid of it was collected in the hall.

Westminster Hall.—The newspapers state that Government have purchased Mr. Cross's "Cœur de Lion" and Mr. Pickersgill's "Burial of Harold" (see our last two Nos.) for 500 guineas each; Mr. Wath's "King Alfred" for 200l., in addition to the 500 guineas premium; and also Mr. Knell's "Sea-fight, with Nelson boarding the San Josef," price not mentioned; and the Queen, Armitage's "Battle of Meeanee" for the Royal collection. We likewise hear that Mr. Lucy's "Departure of the Primitive Puritans," another of the 200l. prizes, has been sold for 450l.

Old Frescoes.—Some repairs in the ancient chapel belonging to Eton College have brought to light a number of fresco-paintings, said to be apparently by Florentine artists, between 1440 and 1480. They chiefly represent miracles by the Virgin; and we are glad to see it stated that the authorities of the place are to take charge of their preservation.

The Archaeological Institute has issued an attractive prospectus of its approaching congress at Norwich, in which we find a number of names of persons eminent in station as well as in the annals of literature and science. The pursuits chalked out for those who may attend are also of an attractive character.

Destruction of Nature and Art.—The effects of the explosion of gun-cotton at Faversham, of volcanoes as quoted in our review of Dunlop's *Central America* (see preceding page), and of lightning as experienced in the late storm at Reading, present scenes of remarkable and awful similitude. The explosion damaged houses a mile off, blasted trees and acres of corn, and was heard at the distance of thirty miles. The far wider extent of the volcanic forces is described in a striking manner by Mr. Dunlop (see review, p. 531); and at Reading a double flash of the electric fluid removed stones, one weighing 8 cwt., to a considerable distance from the building struck.

Medical.—The Astley Cooper prize of 300l. for the year 1850 is offered for the best work on "the state of the blood and of the bloodvessels in inflammation, ascertained by experiments, injections, and observations by the microscope."

M. de Chateaubriand is enjoying sea-bathing at Dieppe, and attended by every demonstration of public esteem and respect.

Earthquake at Havre.—A little before 11 o'clock, on the 10th, a slight shock of earthquake was felt at Havre and the vicinity.

Acts of Parliament.—The *Times*, in commenting upon the able speech of Mr. John Stuart, the eminent Chancery barrister and member for Newark, exposing the hurry, confusion, and contradictions in almost every act of parliament now passed by the Legislature, and calling aloud for the remedies he suggested, quotes as an example of pithy brevity in old days (before the march of intellect commenced) the following simple and beyond mistake intelligible act: "Heresedes maritimus abscque disparagations" (Stat. 9th Hen. III. chap. 6).—One of equal intelligence, and beyond all legal quibble, exists against the desecration of the Lord's day in the reign of an early Scottish James, "If on any man fisheth on the Sabbath day he shall be whipped."

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

On the Cause and Treatment of Abortion and Sterility, by J. Whitehead, F.R.C.S. 8vo, 12s.—Templeton's Workshop Companion, 18mo, half bound, 4s. 6d.—A Hand-book of English Ecclesiology, 18mo, 7s.—Giella, by the Author of "Second Love," 3 vols., post 8vo, 11. 11s. 6d.—Double Entry elucidated, by B. J. Forster, 3d edit., 4to, 8s. 6d.—New County-Courts Act, by H. Udall, Esq., 12mo, bds. 8s.—Henderson on Divine Inspiration, 3d edit., 12mo, 6s.—Love Test, &c., by B. Lambert, 18mo, 5s.—Laws' Church Acts, 3d edit., 8vo, 6s.—Pearson on Fixtures, 3d edit., 8vo, 16s.—Progress of Homopathy, 8vo, 5s.—Pinney's Antidote for Causes that abridge Life, 8vo, 8s.—Willcox's Edinburgh Tourist, &c., 3s.—Lectures on the eighth and twelfth Chapters of Romans, by the Rev. J. Scott, 8vo, 12s.—Passages from the Life of a Daughter at Home, 3d edit., 18mo, 3s. 6d.—Byron's Poetical Works, fcp., 3s. 6d.—Worcester's (Joseph) Critical and Pronouncing Dictionary of the English Language, imperial 8vo, 18s.—Wade's British History chronologically arranged, 5th edit., 8vo, 18s.—Freeling's Father's Recollections, 32mo, 2s. 6d.—Passion Week, Lectures for 1847, by the Rev. F. Close, 12mo, 5s.—Rev. J. G. Faithfull on Justification by Faith, 12mo, 4s. 6d.—The Church-Guest: or, Rural Rides and Calls at Country Churches, 12mo, 6s.—Rev. W. J. Heathman on the Jews and their Institutions, 2s.—The Pleasant Art of Money Catching, new edit., 18mo, 2s.—The Principles and Practice of Hydraulic Engineering, by J. Dwyer, 8vo, 10s. 6d.—History of Greece (Chambers' Educational Course), 12mo, 2s. 6d.—Exemplary Biography, ditto, 12mo, 2s. 6d.—Memoirs of Private Life, &c. of Louis, Queen of Prussia, by Mrs. Richardson, post 8vo, 10s. 6d.—Theirs' History of the Consulate and Empire, Vol. VII., 7s.—Platt's Treatise on the Law of Leases, 3 vols., royal 8vo, 31. 10s.—Tables for buying and selling British Stocks, &c., 12mo, 5s. 6d.—Mary Tudor: an historical Drama, and other Poems, by Sir A. De Vere, &c.—Wayland Smith; a Dissertation on a Tradition of the Middle Ages, by S. W. Singer, 12mo, 4s. 6d.—The Art Prince; a Rhyme, by Fanny Stretton, 12mo, 3s. 6d.—Wild Rose, and other Poems, by R. E. Hendrick, post 8vo, 7s. 6d.—Lovers' Hist., royal 8vo, 31. 10s.—Tables for buying and selling British Stocks, &c., 12mo, 5s. 6d.—Moseley's Treatise on the Law of New County Courts, 8vo, complete, 20s.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

(This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.)

1847.	h. m. s.	1847.	h. m. s.
July 24 . . .	12 6 10.1	July 28 . . .	12 6 10.3
25 . . .	— 6 11.3	29 . . .	— 6 11.3
26 . . .	— 6 11.9	30 . . .	— 6 8.3
27 . . .	— 6 11.9		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION: WARWICK.

From the opening on Monday till the latest despatches received, we have heard of nothing but the useful, brilliant, and delightful proceedings of the British Archaeological Association at Warwick; but in order to have our Report of them better digested, and more comprehensive, we are induced to defer it, till prepared with due care and attention, to ensuing Numbers.

"R. Winn." Doctors differ; and there is no certain canon for taste.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS in

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